



No. 66,218

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 1998

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30p
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ARTS page 40

World Cup
Romario-Brazil lose their 'Gazza' too
SPORT page 52

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MI5 agent barred from Diana show



Shayler: order forbids him to speak about MI5

By **RAYMOND SNODDY** AND **CAROL MIDDLEY**

THE Attorney-General has stepped into the dispute over tonight's documentary about Diana, Princess of Wales, by warning broadcasters that they may not include contributions from former MI5 officer David Shayler.

Hewitt tells of Royal Family 'health warnings' over affair

ing from abroad" to outline the role of the security services in the protection of dignitaries.

He says that members of the Royal Family — whom he describes as "not immediate members", but does not name — told him the relationship was "not supported" and that it may be dangerous to continue.

He says that members of the Royal Family — whom he describes as "not immediate members", but does not name — told him the relationship was "not supported" and that it may be dangerous to continue.

Mannakee, the Princess's personal bodyguard, who was killed in a motor cycle accident in 1983.

last year after becoming disillusioned with its "incompetence". He made a series of allegations in a Sunday newspaper about intelligence gathering from the late Sixties until the early Eighties when, he said, senior executives were obsessed with the "threat from the Left".

Dorrell to take up mantle of Tory Left

By **NICHOLAS WOOD**

STEPHEN DORRELL, the former minister who quit the Shadow Cabinet on Monday, last night put himself at the forefront of the Tory Left's challenge to William Hague over a European single currency.



Thompson: "I thought I had no choice. I wouldn't get any money any other way"

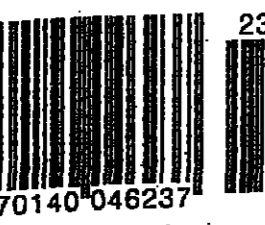
Violinist smuggled £1.2m of cocaine

By **JOANNA BALE**

A FORMER semi-finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year contest told a court yesterday of her fall from grace that reduced her to smuggling nearly £500,000 of cocaine from Brazil.

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Portugal Esc 350; Spain Ptas 325;
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Union anguish as Brown refuses to open his purse

By **PHILIP WEBSTER** AND **JILL SHERMAN**

GORDON BROWN was accused by the unions yesterday of imposing a "totally unnecessary straitjacket" on public spending as he promised to maintain strict discipline right through to the next general election.



Lottery profits
Tim Holley, the chief executive of Camelot, will receive a one-off payment of more than £1 million if its licence to run the National Lottery is renewed in 2001.

UN seeks quake-aid helicopters

From **CHRISTOPHER THOMAS** IN KOL, AFGHANISTAN

A TRICKLE of aid is starting to reach the remotest villages shattered by Saturday's earthquake in northeast Afghanistan.

We're not blowing out our own trumpet.
We're blowing the whistle.
0845 3000 233 DIRECT LINE
Quake wilderness, page 15

Matron takes charge of a right carry-on over health



Double act: Ann Widdecombe and Alan Duncan

A new Tory destroyer, HMS Ann Widdecombe, was launched yesterday at 14.33 hours. She blew her whistle and ploughed straight into the HMS Frank Dobson, a mid-19th-century corvette of considerable firepower. Both sustained superficial damage but neither sank.

Arms akimbo and glowering at the Secretary of State, the formidable bulk of the Tories' new chief health spokesman presents a fearsome sight to the Government benches. Beside her, a slim and agitated new sidekick, Alan Duncan, completed this Hattie Jacques & Charles Hawtrey of a duo.

MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

Miss Widdecombe lunged at the Dispatch Box and started slugging it out with Mr Dobson — also on the subject of waiting lists. She was not subtle. He was not nimble. Neither was brief. The result was much banging about, punctuated by the rattle of statistics and the thud of hyperbole. Nobody won.

well-briefed with prepared attacks upon her of a personal kind. Two women — Audrey Wise (Preston) and Phyllis Starkey (Milton Keynes SW) — ignored the subject of health and concentrated instead on Widdecombe's character. Mrs Wise suggested that Widdecombe believed there was no such thing as a "career". Mrs Starkey accused her of having wanted to shackle pregnant women inmates when she was Prisons Minister.

calling the 'Doris Karloff' tag the *Mirror* invented. When Miss Widdecombe complained to the chair about inaccurate personal attacks, Skinner yelled "Doris can't take it!" New Labour, New Man? It seems not. But Miss Widdecombe is hardly New Woman. On yesterday's showing they are well matched.

Short accuses Red Cross of pointless appeals

CLARE SHORT will today accuse the Red Cross, the world's most prominent aid agency, of launching pointless fundraising appeals which cause unnecessary alarm.

Nicholas Watt on a growing feud between minister and agency over emotive methods of fundraising

Ms Short penned her diatribe against the Red Cross after the agency rounded on her for suggesting last week that humanitarian appeals by many aid agencies made people "flinch and turn away".

the look in Widdecombe's eye. Frank Dobson must have been grateful for the interposition of the Dispatch Box, for she looked ready to lunge onto the table and come at him from on top with her big black handbag. Spokesmen normally stay seated, confident that a nod in the Chair's direction will get them called; but Widdecombe leapt up and down like an eager backbencher.



Mr Dorrell yesterday: "The challenge for Tories is to ensure that the European building did not catch fire"

Dorrell challenges Hague policy

Continued from page 1
currency. "It is powerful in Britain's interests that that currency is a success. We need to think about the implications for Britain of a successful single currency."

"wait and see" approach, is at odds with Mr Hague's outright rejection of the euro for the next ten years. Mr Dorrell also repudiated Mr Hague's vivid warning that for Britain to scrap the pound would be like entering a burning building with all the exits closed.

electoral system you do not get offered the chance of forming a government unless you get the votes of 14 million people and we are some four and a half million short of that."

Union anguish over cash curbs

Continued from page 1
and ancillary workers were also squeezed.

John Prescott is requesting at least £3 billion extra to fund transport programmes such as the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and investment on London Underground.

questioned whether he could see it through. The cost of living was increasing, there had been five interest rate rises, and taxes were up by the equivalent of five pence in the pound.

Mr Maude said: "That's going to lead to very intense pay pressure, so let's see whether he's got the mettle to stick through it. We will support him if he goes down the path of real financial prudence — that's what we've always believed in."

Provisional IRA founder swaps bomb for ballot box

BY MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

A 78-YEAR-OLD man widely regarded as a founder of the Provisional IRA is to stand for election to Northern Ireland's new assembly.



Cahill standing in Ian Paisley's constituency

Libyan arms and explosives to Ireland. In recent years Mr Cahill has become an invaluable supporter of Gerry Adams's peace strategy.

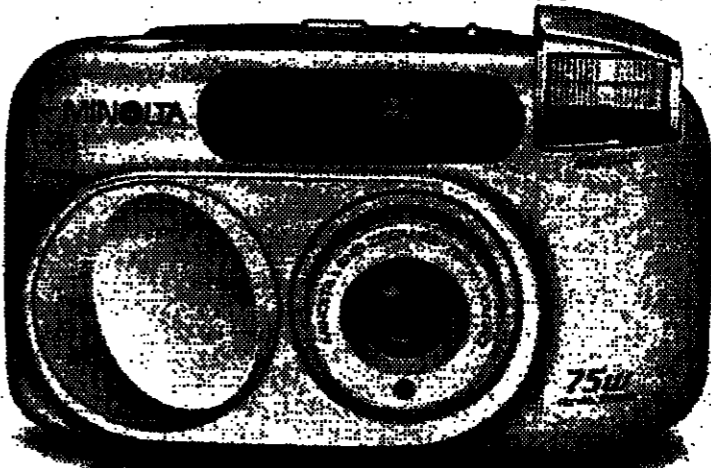
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Divorce hitme Teneri

Woman jailed for assault conviction

Fetishist pairs of c

TWO women... pairs of... fetishist... pairs of c

Divorcee hired hitmen to kill Tenerife lover

A BRITISH woman who hired two nightclub bouncers to murder her lover and business partner on Tenerife was sentenced yesterday to 27 years in a Spanish prison. The bouncers, both Britons, received the same sentence.

Jacqui Ambler, 33, Gary Holmes, 31, from Littlehampton, West Sussex, and Stanley Stewart, 32, from Tullibody, Clackmannan, were found guilty of murdering Michael O'Hara, 39, in 1995 at the bar the couple ran in the Los Cristianos resort.

Ambler, who had left her 11-year old son and her former husband behind in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, to live with Mr O'Hara, paid Holmes and Stewart £4,000 before the murder and promised them a further £40,000 once the job was done, prosecutors said.

The two contract killers battered Mr O'Hara, from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, over the head with a metal barrel and strangled him with a bar towel during a prolonged and violent attack inside his bar, Little Stevies. They had previously tried to knock him unconscious with a karate chop and had tried to stab him through the heart.

Ambler, who was waiting outside, helped to lure Mr O'Hara out from the bar's lavatories after he managed to

Briton sentenced to 27 years in Spanish prison, report Giles Tremlett and Paul Wilkinson

fight off the attackers when they first attempted to kill him, prosecutors said. Ambler had told Mr O'Hara the coast was clear, but Holmes and Stewart jumped on him as soon as he stepped out of his hiding place, they said.

Police photographs had shown the bar spattered with blood. "It was a very violent murder," said one of the lawyers involved in the case.

The two killers were arrested a few days after the murder in the bar district of Las Veronicas in Playa de las Americas in the sprawling tourist zone in south Tenerife.

Holmes and Stewart, had initially told police that Ambler had paid them to murder Mr O'Hara. Prosecutors said that she had even hidden a knife in the bar for them. Later they changed their story, with Holmes claiming he had

killed Mr O'Hara on his own in self-defence during a fight over drugs. Stewart then began to protest his innocence.

Ambler had claimed she had nothing to do with the killing. She told the court she had left the bar to put out the rubbish and found Mr O'Hara's battered corpse when she returned.

Ambler's lawyers said: "We will almost certainly now present an appeal to Spain's Supreme Court. The prosecution never gave any motive for her to kill him." The said Ambler had expected to be freed after spending two and a half years awaiting trial in a Tenerife prison. She had even asked them to start preparing to sue the Spanish state for wrongful imprisonment.

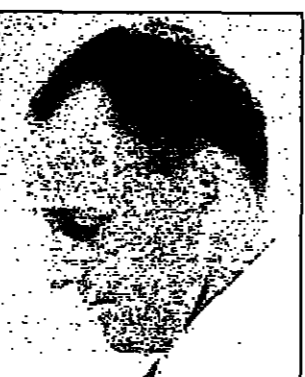
The appeal process will take another year and a half.

The guilty verdict came after the trial had been suspended twice in the past two months because two prosecution witnesses had failed to attend court.

Ambler's father, John, heard the news in a call from a Foreign Office official. At his home in Rossington, South Yorkshire, he said: "I just can't believe it, it hasn't sunk in. We are absolutely devastated. I don't know how they have reached this verdict."

"The last time we saw her back in May she was buoyant, she believed she would be acquitted. We were expecting to hear today that she had been cleared. The whole trial was a sham, witnesses didn't turn up and crucial evidence was never heard. The legal system there is so unpredictable."

"The two men who carried out the killing retracted their statements in court. They said they had lied when they said she had offered them £54,000 to kill O'Hara. My daughter doesn't have 54 pence, let alone £54,000. We had to pay her air fare back the last time."



The hitmen: Gary Holmes, left, and Stanley Stewart



Jacqui Ambler, who was sentenced to 27 years for the murder of her lover

Army chaplain fights for career after acquittal

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

AN ARMY chaplain was left trying to salvage his career last night after a court martial cleared him of sexually assaulting a soldier's wife.

Captain Richard Landall broke down in tears as he marched stiffly from the courtroom in Aldershot, unsure whether he would now face a disciplinary hearing. The 41-year-old chaplain, who has four children, said outside the court that he still did not know why the 24-year-old wife of a soldier serving in Bosnia had accused him of molesting her.

During the ten-day trial he was portrayed as a flirt who wolf-whistled at women and made suggestive remarks in his attempts to be "one of the lads". Close colleagues suggested last night that Captain Landall's career was almost certainly over.

During the trial, the chaplain, who separated from his wife in April 1997, admitted in a letter to a woman who accused him of harassment that, if he did not cut out his behaviour, it would eventually get him into trouble.

The Army refused last night to speculate on the possibility of an internal disciplinary hearing. A spokesman said Captain Landall would be returning to work as a chaplain at the administrative unit at Upavon, Wiltshire, where he had been transferred pending the outcome of the case. Captain Landall did not

discuss his future in a brief statement after his acquittal. In a barely audible voice, he thanked the court before taking his cap and belt and marching out alongside his twin brother, David.

He said afterwards: "I thank God that justice has been done. I have prayed throughout this case that the truth would come out. Just why these accusations were made, I will never fully know. This has been an impossibly difficult time not only for myself but also for my children, my family and friends."

The five-man tribunal was warned by Judge Advocate Michael Hunter to consider the motives of his accuser — referred to as Mrs X — as to whether she told "wicked lies" and then considered selling her story for £15,000 to a tabloid newspaper.



Landall: may still face disciplinary hearing

Vinnie Jones faces jail after assault conviction

By PETER FOSTER

THE footballer Vinnie Jones was facing jail last night after being convicted of assaulting a neighbour after a row over a stile and a footpath gate.

The 33-year-old Queens Park Rangers assistant manager and coach was found guilty of causing actual bodily harm to Timothy Gear, 27, and criminal damage to his mobile home.

During the two-day trial magistrates in St Albans heard how Jones went to Mr Gear's caravan late one night last November, smashed a kitchen window and then bit Mr Gear on the scalp, kicked him in the ribs and punched him in the face.

The violence followed a dispute over a stile which Jones, a Wales international and former Wimbledon player, had installed near his home in Redbourn, Hertfordshire, to keep local children from riding motorcycles past his house, endangering his two young children.

The case was adjourned for pre-sentencing reports leaving Jones with a three-week wait before he finds out if he is to receive a jail sentence or community service. The maximum sentence is five years in jail. QPR declined to comment last night on what effect his conviction would have on his future at the club.

Kashoggi's £3m cheques bounced, says Ritz casino

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

CHEQUES written by Adnan Kashoggi, once one of the richest men in the world, "bounced" when he lost more than £3 million at the Ritz Casino in London in two weeks, the High Court was told yesterday.

Twelve years on, the 63-year-old uncle of Dodi Fayed has still not paid and the casino has taken him to court to recover the debt, plus interest estimated at £5 million.

Between March 27 and April 10, 1986, Mr Kashoggi wrote 16 cheques to the casino. This came at the end of four months in which he spent more than £10 million at the roulette wheel, the court was told. The cheques were refused



Kashoggi: spent £10m at the roulette wheel

by Mr Kashoggi's Swiss bank because of insufficient funds in the arms dealer's account, said Nicholas Merriman, QC, for the Ritz.

Between 1986 and 1990, Mr Kashoggi excused himself from paying, saying that he was mired in congressional hearings in America over the "Irangate" scandal, as well as criminal proceedings involving him and Imelda Marcos. "I can understand how that might have occupied him," said Mr Justice Roughton, who is presiding over the case.

In 1990, the manager of the casino asked Mr Kashoggi if he would turn his mind to the bounced cheques. Mr Merriman said that no payment materialised and the following year the casino resorted to the legal action which yesterday found its way to the High Court.

When Mr Kashoggi began his £10 million spree at the casino, he found himself in profit at the end of some evenings. Mr Kashoggi soon found, Mr Justice Roughton said, that "fortune's smiles had turned to frowns".

Mr Kashoggi's defence will claim that he had an arrangement with the casino's management that effectively allowed him to continue gambling illegally on credit. The hearing continues today.

Fetishists collected 10,000 pairs of other men's socks

By RUSSELL JENKINS

TWO homosexual lovers amassed a collection of 10,000 pairs of used socks to satisfy a bizarre sexual foot fetish. Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday.

Steven Bain, 27, a nursing home carer, and Steven Gawthrop, 31, a student, both of Southport, Merseyside, tricked men into handing over their socks by claiming that they were raising money for a cancer charity.

Two uniformed policemen and a traffic warden were among the many — mostly students — who fell for their story and were photographed holding up their socks. Other

young men were enticed back to Gawthrop's flat to put their bare feet on Bain's face in exchange for £5.

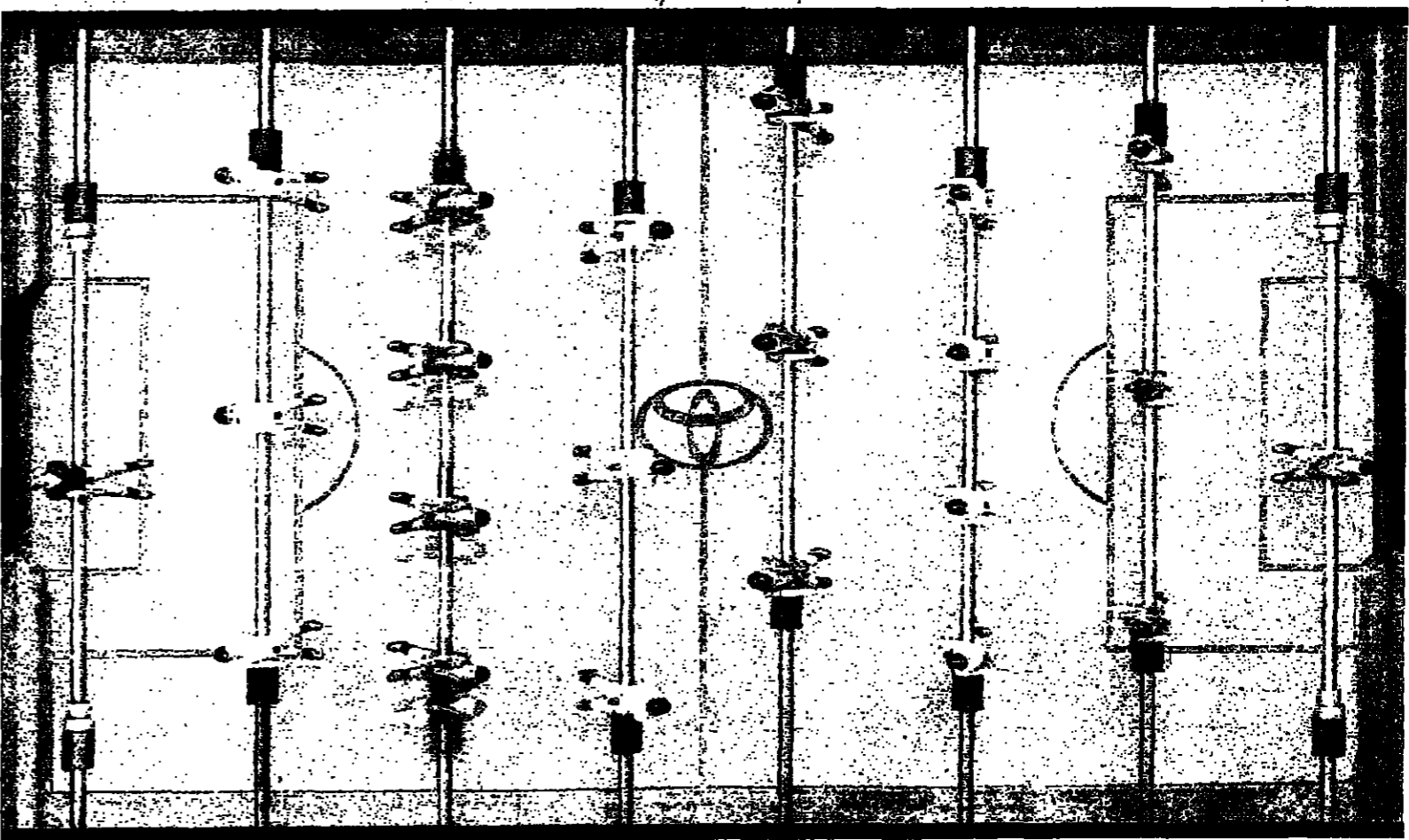
The young "victims" were given increasing amounts of money, up to £80, to engage in perverted activities, including beating the men with belts.

The court heard that the pair told their "victims" that charities received £300 for every 300 pairs they collected. When police raided the flat last October, they discovered an 18-inch deep carpet of socks. About 4,000 were tagged with the donor's names and neatly wrapped in sandwich bags. One officer

said: "They were all over the furniture, hanging from lampshades and even in the microwave, frying pan and cooker. It was like there had been an explosion in a sock factory."

Their activities came to light after a firm of film processors developed a roll of obscene photographs. Both men pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit acts of gross indecency. Gawthrop also admitted incitement to commit unlawful wounding on Bain. Bain admitted a similar offence on Gawthrop. They were each jailed for 18 months.

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Camelot directors cash in as lottery profits rise

WHAT THEY EARN

TIM HOLLEY, 58, chief executive
 Overall package: £636,000, up from £590,000 last year — a rise of almost 8 per cent.
 Basic salary rose 8 per cent from £262,000 to £284,000. Performance-related bonus down from £127,000 to £126,000 and his benefits in kind from £25,000 to £24,000. But long-term bonus scheme rose from £175,000 to £202,000.

PETER MURPHY, 41, finance director
 Overall package: £429,000, up from £361,000 (19 per cent).
 Basic salary rose 18 per cent from £148,000 to £175,000; bonus up from £74,000 to £79,000; long-term bonus payout up from £96,000 to £127,000 and benefits up from £43,000 to £48,000.

DAVID CLARK, 58, operations director
 Overall package: £355,000, up from £347,000 (2 per cent).
 Basic salary rose from £148,000 to £155,000 (6 per cent); performance-related bonus slumped from £74,000 to £69,000 and his benefits from £31,000 to £20,000. But long-term incentive payment went up from £96,000 to £111,000.

DIANNE THOMPSON, 47, marketing director
 Overall package: £235,000.
 First full year under long-term incentive plan, with benefits of £16,000. Bonus of £11,000.

DAVID RIGG, 50, former communications director
 Overall package: £284,000, down from £383,000.
 Resigned in October. Salary of £82,000 was boosted by bonus of £87,000 and long-term performance payout of £109,000, plus benefits of £8,000.

SIR GEORGE RUSSELL, 62, chairman
 Salary, his only payment from Camelot, rose from £68,000 to £71,000 (4.5 per cent).

Chief executive stands to receive £1m in bonus pay if firm's licence is renewed, writes **Jon Ashworth**

CAMELOT unveiled large pay rises for some directors and record profits of £80.9 million yesterday. Tim Holley, the chief executive, will also receive a one-off payment of more than £1 million if Camelot's licence to run the National Lottery is renewed in 2001.

Lottery sales rose 17 per cent to £5.5 billion in the year ending in March, leaving Camelot's pre-tax profits 14 per cent higher. After-tax profits were up 16 per cent at £54.2 million — more than £1 million a week. Nearly £1.6 billion was raised during the year for good causes.

Mr Holley, whose pay rose from £590,000 to £636,000 last year, will collect 12 months' basic salary — currently £284,267 — as a "loyalty bonus" for staying until the licence expires in September

2001 and a further 12 months' salary upon renewal. The payments are in addition to his annual remuneration.

There will be similar windfalls for the rest of the board. Mr Holley's 1997 package included £125,563 in performance-related bonus and £202,335 as the final payment under a long-term incentive plan. A further £104,181 was paid into his pension scheme, taking his total remuneration to nearly £740,000.

Sales of Instantis fell by £75.5 million to £801 million despite innovations such as the BBC gameshow *The National Lottery Big Ticket*, which costs £500,000 an episode. TV Dreams scratchcard sales, linked to the show, have been disappointing.

Sir George Russell, the Camelot chairman, said the lottery was well on the way to



Tim Holley, the Camelot chief executive, whose overall package rose almost 8 per cent to £636,000 last year

raising £10 billion for good causes by 2001. Camelot returns 42 per cent of sales to Government, compared with an average of 35 per cent elsewhere.

There was no comment yesterday on the pay rises from Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, whose outspoken

attack on last year's increases sparked a confrontation between Camelot and the Government, shifting three directors threatened to resign rather than give up their bonuses. A Culture Department spokesman described the pay issue as "old hat", saying payments due to Mr

Holley in 2001 were "a matter for Camelot". The Government has moderated its stance on the lottery, shifting from "not for profit" to "not for excessive profit".

However, John Maxton, a Labour member of the Culture, Media and Sport Commons Select Committee, told the *Today* programme that it was "mythology" to claim that Camelot staff needed big salaries, although they could be paid in non-profitmaking organisations. "It's the money going to shareholders that is the problem."

Mr Maxton urged the Government to ensure that the next lottery franchise went to a non-profitmaking body.

Camelot paid £51 million to buy out GTEch, the American firm that provided the technology to run the lottery, and a further £6.7 million in dividends. GTEch earned £30 million in supply contracts. Camelot's shareholders re-

ceived £30 million in dividends during the year. Peter Murphy, Camelot finance director, said the profits represented less than 1p in every pound spent on the lottery. Not only had money to the good causes risen by 23 per cent, but the proportion of money going to the Government in lottery duty, tax and the National Lottery Distribution Fund was up 1.5 per cent.

He said: "At less than 1p in the pound, and in the context of the amount of money that's going to the good causes, I think our profits are absolutely reasonable."

Salary packets next year are likely to drop because no more payments are being made under the long-term incentive scheme. Instead, staff throughout the company will be entitled to an extra year's salary if they stay with Camelot until the end of its licence in 2001 — a bonus which will be based on 2001 salaries.

Camelot's shareholders re-

Autumn date for regulator team

By **CAROL MIDDLEY**
 MEDIA CORRESPONDENT



Davis resigned from Oflot after libel case

THE five people who will replace the National Lottery's one-man watchdog will be chosen this autumn, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport said yesterday.

They will serve on a new collective National Lottery Commission, which will act as the official regulator. The single post of Oflot director-general, previously held by Peter Davis, was scrapped by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, earlier this year in the wake of Richard Branson's libel victory over Guy Snowden, of GTEch. Mr Davis was forced to resign over the case.

The salaried posts will be advertised after the National Lottery Bill is given Royal Assent next month. Applicants will have to show interest or expertise in lotteries, current affairs or business matters, a department spokesman said. Those chosen will be expected to serve for ap-

proximately one day a week. They will appoint their own chief executive, a civil servant, later this year.

Mr Smith said that the five-member team would strengthen regulation of the lottery. He said it would also be better for the operator, who would not be "subject to the whim of a single individual regulator".

"The commission is due to be in operation early next year."

PC accused of using CS spray unlawfully

By **ADAM FRESKO**

A PENSIONER was temporarily blinded with CS spray by a policeman after he refused to move his car from a double yellow line while dropping his disabled wife at the hairdresser's, a court was told yesterday.

In the first case of its kind, PC Andrew Taylor, 30, is accused of occasioning actual bodily harm by unlawfully using the spray on Kenneth Whitaker, 67. PC Taylor denies the charge.

Mr Whitaker was dropping his wife off in May last year in Kempston, near Bedford, when a police car pulled up. Luton Crown Court was told.

He said the officer accused him of causing an obstruction. Mr Whitaker refused to leave his car, saying he had done nothing wrong, and the officer started to tug at him. Mr Whitaker told the court: "I suddenly felt a blow in my face. I was not aware of what it was, only of the excruciating pain in my right eye."

Stuart Trimmer, for the prosecution, said the "unjustified and unlawful use of CS spray" was as if the officer had "taken his baton and beaten Mr Whitaker to get him out of the car".

The officer said in a statement that Mr Whitaker had twice tried to bite him, and he had "felt in fear of my safety".

The trial continues.

Landlords open gate wider for ramblers

By **MICHAEL HORNSBY**
 AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

LANDOWNERS offered more access to ramblers yesterday, to fend off a legal right to roam over millions of acres of privately owned countryside.

Their offer came in a response to government proposals announced in February for opening up 3.5 million acres of mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land to walkers, who are usually restricted to tracks and paths.

Ian MacNicol, the president of the Country Landowners' Association, whose 50,000 members are estimated to own half of England and Wales, said: "The Government offers two options: we strongly support the voluntary approach and are totally opposed to a new statutory right of access."

The association said that it was prepared to create permanent new paths and to agree with local councils to wider access off paths, provided that this did not conflict with farming or conserving wildlife.

Kate Ashbrook, access campaigner for the Ramblers' Association, said: "Instead of the public being free to walk on open, uncultivated hills, across commons and up mountains, local authorities would have to negotiate each agreement individually with each landowner."



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£2.2m price on crown jewels of football

Adrian Lee reports on a bid to save Bobby Moore's medals for nation

ENGLISH football is preparing to raise £2.2 million to buy the medals of Bobby Moore, captain of England's victorious 1966 World Cup team, from his former wife.

The deal would involve funding by the National Lottery, be backed by the Football Association and partly financed by the 20 Premiership clubs. It is being co-ordinated by officials at the new Football Museum in Preston.

An application to the Heritage Fund will be submitted within a few days and is likely to be viewed favourably.

The collection includes Moore's solid-gold winner's medal, 43 of his England caps, a Footballer of the Year trophy and a silver salver presented to mark his 100th appearance for his country. The collection, filling two large suitcases, has been independently valued for West Ham United, Moore's first club, at £2.2 million. The Heritage Fund will seek advice from at least two more experts before committing itself to the purchase.

Grant MacDougall, football specialist at Christie's, has described it as "the crown jewels of soccer memorabilia. I have specialised in this field for nine years and I can honestly say I have never seen anything to match this. Bobby Moore's achievements were so great that his collection of trophies has assumed an historical as well as a sporting significance."

Moore, who died aged 51 from bowel cancer five years ago, left the collection to his first wife, Tina, who lives in Miami. She had planned to auction the medals and it was feared they could go abroad.

West Ham has already submitted an application for lottery money to buy the medals. But there are fears that the bid will fail because the club is a private company and priority is given to



Bobby Moore with some of his many medals

museums. It is understood that Mrs Moore, 54, has agreed to delay auctioning the collection until a decision is made by the Heritage Fund.

Kevin Moore, director of the Football Museum, which has already received £7.65 million lottery funding, said the bid was a back-up to the West Ham application. "It is a matter of saving this collection in any way, should the West Ham application for lottery funding fail."

The Premier League, which represents the 20 Premiership clubs, has agreed to donate £100,000 — shared equally among the clubs. Private sponsorship may also be sought. To meet lottery criteria, at least 10 per cent of the cash must be provided by the applicants.

Mrs Moore is said to be sympathetic to efforts to keep the trophies in England and allowed valuers — working for the museum — to view them in her bank vault. The asking price is thought to be between £2 million and £3 million.

The museum is due to open in late 1999 and hopes to attract 100,000 people a year. If saved for the nation, the

collection would go on national tour.

Kevin Moore said he believed it was appropriate to spend lottery cash on the collection. "It is an important part of our heritage. Winning the World Cup was the crowning moment in English foot-

ball and Bobby Moore was the greatest England captain of all. It would be an enormous shame if they went abroad."

The FA is supporting the bid, although it has not committed any cash.

The Heritage Fund, which is to seek its own independent valuations, normally takes several months to process applications but bids can be "fast-tracked", with decisions taken in weeks. A fund source said: "This is a fantastic opportunity. Securing collections such as this is what we are here for."

If Mrs Moore agrees to sell privately to a British museum, she can avoid paying tax.

The market in football memorabilia is booming. In 1996 *The Mirror* paid £80,000 for the ball with which Geoff Hurst scored his hat-trick in the 1966 final. George Cohen, a member of the victorious team, is expected to make up to £80,000 when his winner's medal is auctioned later this month.



Bar-Bel helping her baby to safety. It collapsed later from exhaustion

Keeper goes to rescue of drowning baby hippo

By A CORRESPONDENT

A NEW-BORN hippopotamus was saved from drowning yesterday as firefighters pumped 200,000 gallons from a safari park lake.

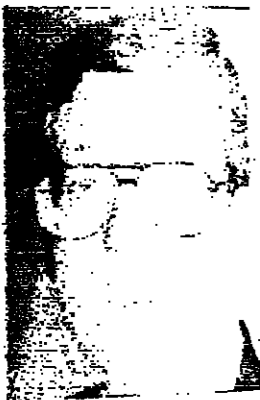
The 50lb, 18in tall female was born early yesterday on a ledge beside the hippo lake at the West Midlands Safari Park in Bewdley, Worcestershire. But heavy rain swamped the ledge and the baby kept wandering over the edge into deep water.

The baby's mother, Bar-Bel, rescued it twice by pushing it back to the ledge with her nose, but keepers were concerned that it would drown unless the water level was reduced below the ledge.

After six hours of pumping, the baby made its way to the shallows at the edge of the lake where it collapsed, exhausted. Bob Lawrence, the keeper, said that while the mother's back was turned, he lifted it out of the shallows with a keepnet.

The baby was given oxygen and taken to the park's recovery room. "It's still 50-50," Mr Lawrence said last night.

mn date for lator team



Landlords open gate wider for ramblers



Bobby and Tina Moore in 1967. They separated in 1984

Ex-wife's goal is to make family financially secure

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

BOBBY MOORE'S first wife said that she wanted to sell her former husband's trophies to give her financial security and to help the couple's two children.

Tina Moore, 53, who lives in a simple flat on the Venetian Isles causeway, one of Miami's most attractive waterfront districts, moved to Florida several years ago and works as a public relations consultant. She has not remarried.

The couple were married for 24 years and had two children before their divorce in 1984. Their son Dean Moore, 29, runs a London pub and has a six-year-old daughter, Poppy. The Moores' daughter, Roberta, also has a young child, Freddie, 2.

Mrs Moore, has received dozens of inquiries about the extensive collection of medals and trophies since putting it on the market earlier in the year. At the time she said it was what her ex-husband would have wanted. "Like many women I have a very strong spiritual sense and firmly believe that Bobby is with me at this time," she told *The Sun* in March.

"I've been agonising over what to do about his trophies for months but always felt that he has pointed me in the right direction," she added.

She said she feels sure "he would want me to enjoy my future — and be financially secure... selling his collection will give me the means to

have a happy retirement and look after his children for years to come.

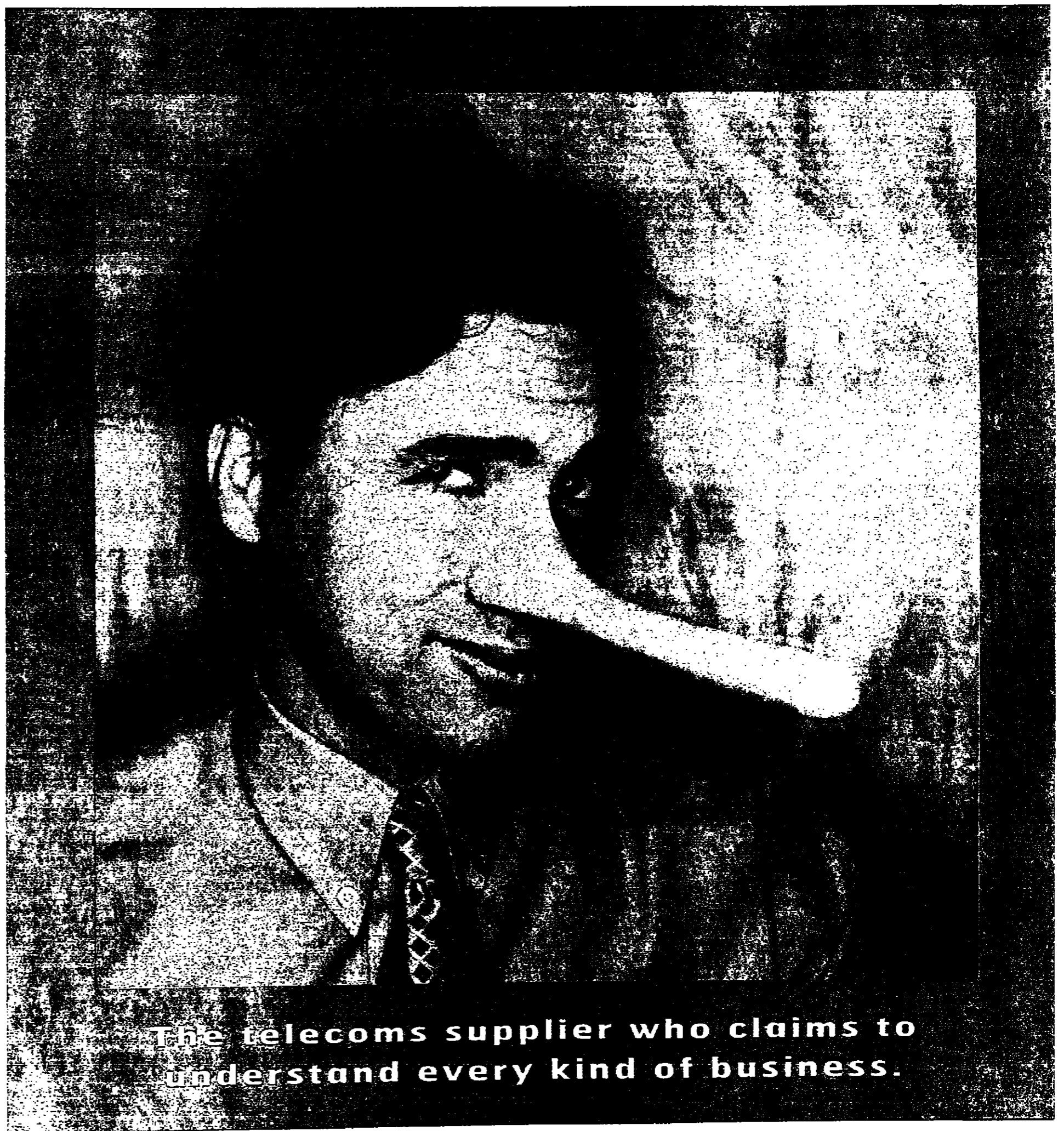
"I know Bobby would want his trophies in a soccer hall of fame or a museum where everyone can see them. But that will only happen when the price is right — and I don't feel the £2 million I am asking for is unreasonable in view of what he achieved. After all, no other Englishman has ever lifted the World Cup — he was arguably our greatest sporting hero."

She said that at the time of their marriage break-up in 1984 Moore had promised he would always care for his first wife and their two children. Feeling guilty over their separation, he left most of his soccer memorabilia at the couple's home in Essex when he left her for his second wife, Stephanie.

She keeps most of the collection, which also includes a silver disc for sales of England's 1970 World Cup song *Back Home*, a silver salver commemorating Moore's hundredth England cap, and a gold coin to mark the last game of his good friend, Pele, in two huge suitcases and a holdall.

After Moore's death the collection was locked away in a London bank vault.

There is one item which Mrs Moore says is not for sale. The insignia of the OBE, which Moore received from the Queen in 1967, still holds too great a sentimental value to the family.



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Flood warnings at Easter 'were issued too late'

THE Environment Agency made serious mistakes in the way it responded to the severe flooding in mid-Wales and parts of central and eastern England over Easter, an independent report said yesterday.

Flood warnings in some areas were issued too late, or not at all, and the agency was not helped by Met Office forecasts that failed to predict the severity of the rainfall.

The report estimated that the floods, in which five people died, damaged between 4,000 and 5,000 homes and other properties, with 75mm of rain, equivalent to the normal total over six weeks, falling in 36 hours in many places.

The interim report was produced by an independent review team, chaired by Peter Bye, a former chief executive of Suffolk County Council, which was set up by the agency after the floods.

Although the report did not comment directly on the performance of the Met Office, it did not dispute an internal assessment by the Environment Agency accusing the office of

Environment Agency criticised for response to emergency that left 5 dead, writes Michael Hornsby

having "grossly underestimated" actual rainfall in an Easter weekend forecast of "cold with rain, heavy at times". The report also said that the agency appeared to be accurate in its assessment that "flood defences in many of the hardest-hit areas, such as Northampton and Banbury, were not designed for the magnitude of the floods seen over Easter, which might be expected to occur perhaps once in every 100 to 150 years".

grossly underestimated the rainfall. We were certainly forecasting very heavy rain in many places."

The report said: "There is evidence in some locations of unsatisfactory forecasting and warning dissemination, apparent slow reaction to events, confusion and misunderstanding among the public caught up in the floods, and unsatisfactory liaison between agency staff and emergency services."

The report noted that global warming could possibly lead to higher rainfall and more frequent river flooding, and said the agency did not appear to be taking this into account in future planning.

Mr Bye said all the evidence suggested that the Easter flooding was in places the most serious seen this century. "This was a rare event that occurred with extreme speed and intensity. Anything we say about the performance of the agency or other authorities should be seen in that context."

The Environment Agency was set up in April 1996 and only took over responsibility for issuing flood warnings later that year. Previously this task had been left largely to local police forces.

Archie Robertson, the agency's director of operations, said he was pleased that the report had recognised that flood warning was "a recent and challenging addition to the agency's responsibilities".

Among improvements being introduced is an increase from 5,000 to 25,000 in the number of homes linked to an automatic telephone system that relays flood warnings directly to people living in high-risk areas. About 50,000 homes in England and Wales are regarded as being at high risk of flooding.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said the widespread loss of natural wetland in England and the canalisation of waterways had increased the risk of flooding.

"The Government should investigate an immediate review of land use in the catchment of river systems vulnerable to flooding," Phil Rothwell, head of policy operations, said.



Dr Douglas-Dixon moments before he was shot

Church books save doctor from a bullet in the back

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A SET of religious books saved the life of a church aid worker shot during a gun attack on a shop in the Philippines.

A bullet passed through four books in Andrew Douglas-Dixon's backpack and came to rest in the Book of Mormon. Four other bullets injured his arm, hand and foot.

"I now feel as though someone is looking out for me," Dr Douglas-Dixon, 38, a medical doctor and Mormon minister, said from his home in Tong, West Yorkshire, where he was recovering yesterday.

He was three days into a year-long mission to Manila when he was caught up in the shooting. Five men, including two policemen, died shortly afterwards in a battle with the gunmen.

He said the firing began after he went into a chemist's shop to buy a film. "I was at the counter and saw some people get out of this jeep, but I didn't realise what was happening. I wasn't really taking much notice until

these people started spraying bullets, then I took a lot of notice."

"Almost immediately I was hit in the back, which threw me into the counter. I broke my arm and a few fingers on the counter. Then I felt two bullets hit me in my feet and two more in my hand. My life flashed before my eyes."

Rhea Garcia, a missionary nurse, gave him first aid. He said: "I was incapable of doing anything. The bullets had severed the tendons, muscles, and arteries in my right hand and I was losing a lot of blood. She stopped the flow. The man next to me had been shot in the chest. He was only just alive, but I found out later on he had died there on the floor."

One of the bullets went through four books but was stopped by the fifth — a hardback that was an inch thick. "If it had not been for the books, the bullet would have gone right through me," he said. "Normally I would not carry so many books, but because the Philippines have 11 different dia-



Andrew Douglas-Dixon at home: he feels "someone is looking out for me"

lects and two main languages. I was given books in the different languages. I picked them up minutes before this happened. I'm glad I did."

He was told that the gang were trying to steal medical supplies from the shop, which was called Bong Lucky. He said: "They just sprayed the shop and destroyed it with bullets. Everyone was showered with glass

from the window. I was in the middle of the shop. To my left there was a bloke lying in a pool of blood. He was obviously dead."

After the shooting, a week ago, he was taken to a local hospital, then transferred to the Mormons' own medical centre where surgeons removed the bullets and glass and stitched his hand. Two days later, he was flown back to England and taken to

Bradford Royal Infirmary, where he once worked. He was released on Monday.

Dr Douglas-Dixon was carrying out medical and religious work with the poor in the shanty towns of the Philippines capital. His experience has not put him off: "You can't judge an entire people on the actions of a few terrorists. When my hand is healed, I will go back and finish what I tried to start."

TOWNS AT RISK

Four places were identified in the report for further investigation: Northampton, where flooding affected about 2,000 properties; Leamington, Warwickshire, not previously thought to be at risk and where 400 properties were flooded; Kidlington, Oxfordshire, also not previously regarded as at risk, where 250 properties were affected; and Skenfrith, Monmouthshire, where 30 homes were flooded.

Questions over the adequacy of flood defences and warning systems were most acute in these areas. The failure of local authorities to control unsuitable housing development in flood plains also needed addressing.



Banbury caught the worst of Easter floods

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Ignorance puts men at mercy of 'near epidemic' in cancers

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

MEN know more about women's cancers than their own, a poll has shown. Although prostate cancer kills 10,000 men in Britain every year, only a fifth of those questioned claimed to know much about that or testicular cancer.

Out of nearly 1,000 men polled by MORI for the Institute of Cancer Research, only one in ten knew anything about a blood test — prostate specific antigen (PSA) — that can reveal a risk of developing the disease.

Yet 29 per cent of the men knew a great deal or a fair amount about breast cancer, while 46 per cent claimed the same level of knowledge about lung cancer and 51 per cent about heart disease. "There is

a woeful lack of awareness about prostate cancer," Colin Campbell, of the institute, said when presenting the results of the poll yesterday. "Yet we are on the verge of an epidemic, and recent results show that the PSA test can reduce deaths threefold."

The institute has launched an appeal for research funding for prostate cancer. About £1 million a year is spent on research into the disease, compared with £15 million into HIV/AIDS and £40 million into heart disease.

The PSA test is of limited use because only a fifth of those who show positive will die of prostate cancer. Doctors cannot identify which cases need treatment, though fur-

ther tests can narrow the range of uncertainty.

The preferred treatment — an operation — leaves most men impotent and a few incontinent too. Given this stark choice, only a third of the men questioned said that they would be certain or very likely to have the operation. Their responses depended greatly on how many years of extra life the operation would give.

A minority — 15 per cent — said they would never have the operation if it meant incontinence. Given an increased life expectancy of five years, 28 per cent would have the operation, and given an extra ten years, 64 per cent would. Similar proportions would have the operation despite the threat of impotence.

Professor Cooper said: "It is appalling that men who test positive have to choose between the risk of developing the disease or a 90 per cent chance of becoming impotent and 20 per cent chance of becoming incontinent through surgery." Better tests were needed, which could come only through research.

In practice, surgery would not be undertaken on the basis of a PSA test alone, but, to keep the issue simple, this was the dilemma presented in the poll. Even with further tests, the risks of impotence and incontinence remain.

The NHS has fought shy of introducing the test because of its uncertainties. But a Canadian study published last month showed that screening involving the PSA test, a digital rectal examination and ultrasound cut deaths from prostate cancer by a third. The researchers called for screening for all men at the age of 50, and at 40 for those with a family history of the disease.

Professor Cooper said that introducing the test in Britain would be expensive as millions of men would be involved. But the benefits were clearer than they had been for breast or cervical screening when introduced.

Lung patients in chemotherapy trial

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE routine refusal of health authorities to offer chemotherapy to lung cancer patients has made Britain a testbed for finding out if the treatment works.

Reporting progress on what researchers call the Big Lung Trial (BLT), Stephen Spiro, Professor of Respiratory Diseases at University College Hospital, London, said whereas only 5 per cent of British patients were offered chemotherapy, it was given to all patients in America, 95 per cent of patients in Germany and 90 per cent in France.

"Britain is one of the few countries in the world where there is an open mind as to whether chemotherapy will work," Professor Spiro said.

One reason health authorities were not prepared to spend money on the 40,000 Britons in whom lung cancer is diagnosed each year was that the disease is smoking-related in 80 per cent of cases.

The trial is recruiting patients from each of three categories — those who have an operation, those who have radiotherapy, and those who have neither — and prepared to be randomly chosen to have either chemotherapy or normal palliative treatment.

"Chemotherapy does seem to work in many cases, giving a patient a few extra weeks of life. It is relatively cheap," Professor Spiro said.

"However we do not know what the costs are for extra hospital or hospice care and whether or not the patient's quality of life is so affected by chemotherapy that it may not be worth helping them to live longer."

He added: "There is some evidence that chemotherapy does bring a cure in around 5 per cent of cases and if we can prove that it would save thousands of lives worldwide." The trial should produce results in three years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gang steals street in Liverpool

Thieves have stolen a street in Liverpool. They used a mechanical digger to lift thousands of cobbles from a 100-metre section of road in the Kensington area.

The thieves spent four hours digging up about 5,000 cobbles and taking them away on Sunday. Merseyside Police said people should be suspicious if they are offered large quantities of cheap 19th-century cobbles. They are worth between 45p and £2 each.

Chain reaction

Two 8ft portable lavatories flew off a trailer near Brandon, Suffolk, and a 71-year-old motorist was slightly injured when one hit his oncoming car. Twelve of the kiosks were on the trailer towed by a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Baby for Gunnell

The hurdler Sally Gunnell gave birth to a 7lb 3oz boy at the Royal Sussex Hospital in Brighton. Ms Gunnell, 31, and her husband, Jonathan Bigg, have still to decide on a name for the baby, who is their first child.

Excess baggage

Cabin staff found a 2ft snake in the overhead lockers of a jet which had just landed at Heathrow from Miami, Florida. A spokeswoman said Virgin Atlantic had no idea how the harmless grass snake got onboard.

Rude awakening

A sleepwalker broke his arms, wrists and four ribs after falling 2ft from the loft conversion of his mother's house in Bath. Julian Bass, 23, was found lying on a concrete path after the noise of his dam fall woke a neighbour's dog.

Bird stops play

A magpie delayed a cricket match at Ryde on the Isle of Wight when it swooped down and stole the keys from the ignition of a motorised roller that was about to prepare the pitch. A tractor had to be summoned to tow the roller away.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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Bird stops

Blunkett may close 25 failing schools

Minister announces tougher measures as more comprehensives give cause for concern, writes John O'Leary



Blunkett said no child should languish in a failing school

UP TO 25 failing schools could be closed under measures announced by the Government yesterday, as it was disclosed that the failure rate among comprehensives had increased recently. From September, schools that fail their Ofsted inspections will be expected to improve within two years. Those considered to be making insufficient progress could be closed by ministers or given a "fresh start" under a new name. David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said that he would not hesitate to use powers included in a Bill now before Parliament. "This is part of an ongoing programme of ensuring that no child is left languishing in a school that is failing them. It is imperative to give them the kind of education they deserve and which

we would want for our own children." Since Ofsted began its second round of secondary school inspections last autumn, concentrating on schools causing concern, the failure rate has doubled to 4 per cent. The failure rate among primary schools has risen from 2 to 3 per cent, with ministers blaming local authorities for delaying the inspection of their weakest schools. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said the rise was worrying, although the secondary school figures had not been a surprise, given that 40 per cent of those inspected recently had previously displayed weaknesses. Since Ofsted inspections began in 1993, a total of 573 schools have been placed under "special measures", making them subject to regular

monitoring. More than 30 have been closed but 110 have improved sufficiently to be taken off the list. Mr Blunkett said that, by September, 74 failing schools would have reached the deadline of two years in which they should have improved. He expected two thirds to be cleared in case conferences involving civil servants, inspectors and local authority officials. Among the prime candidates for closure or a fresh start will be a handful of the 18 schools "named and shamed" by ministers almost a year ago. Five of the schools have been cleared, two given a fresh start and one will close next month. But Ofsted acknowledged that about half of the remaining ten were still causing concern. Under the new system, inspectors

will assess progress six months after a school has been failed, and the local authority will submit a joint report with Ofsted on future plans a year later. The authority will also be required to justify keeping a failing school open if it has surplus places and there is a popular alternative nearby. Mr Blunkett said the new approach would avoid the need for the Government to name failing schools, although local authorities might still do so. He added that he was considering how to protect the jobs of teachers who joined failing schools. "People who give their commitment to help the school need not be in fear of their prospects." Teaching unions strongly criticised the new measures. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the

National Union of Teachers, said: "A hardline approach to failing schools would be detrimental to pupils and does not cater for individual cases." David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said it would be possible to turn a school around within two years only if it received effective support. Where the factors contributing to failure were outside a school's control, a two-year deadline might be an unfair penalty. However, Pat Peck, who chairs the National Governors' Council, welcomed the plans. "It is the children who lose out in failing schools. Children who have the chance of a good education denied them find it difficult, sometimes impossible, to catch up later."

Playtime cuts 'stop children making friends'

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

CUTS in breaktimes in favour of more time for teaching are preventing children from learning basic social skills in the playground, a report claims today. Since 1990, nearly half of England's primary and secondary schools have reduced the traditional lunch-hour and cut out the afternoon breaktime as the pressure of league table status increases. However, a report by Peter Blatchford, from the Institute of Education, which is based on three separate studies, claims the shift means pupils are at risk of failing to learn how to make friends. One study asked pupils and teachers at primary and secondary schools what they thought of breaktime. Pupils saw the break as a time to get away from the pressures of work and meet friends, while teachers felt the time off usually led to playground fights and unruly behaviour. "In one in four schools, both primary and secondary, the view was that the standard of behaviour at breaktime had declined. There was a perception of less respect toward authority and the environment, an increase in aggression, and more individual pupils with difficult behaviour," the report says. Teachers also said primary pupils had to be taught how to play games while children at secondary schools needed greater supervision at breaktime to reduce the possibility of bullying and fights. Dr Blatchford said the positive responses to breaktime given by inner-London school pupils over a ten-year period reinforced its importance as more than just time off work. The report also suggests that in recent years, primary pupils have had less opportunity to make friends because they are driven to school. Breaktime allows them to interact with peers, and although some said they feared bullying, this was usually outweighed by the friendships they made. Dr Blatchford is now urging schools not to cut breaktime any further. "From a pupil's perspective, breaktime can be the main setting for social life in school," the report says.

Off to a fresh start, with £3m aid and a new name

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BLAKELAW School, in Newcastle upon Tyne, will be the first to experience the Government's "fresh start" system. From September, it will reopen under a different name with new faces filling half the teaching posts. After Blakelaw failed its Ofsted inspection in March 1996, the number of entrants plummeted and the local authority was resigned to closure. Only 54 children accepted places last year in a school built for year-groups of 120. However, councillors agreed to allow the school to become a model for the treatment of failing schools. Almost £3 million is being spent improving the shabby premises, a new head teacher has been appointed and the re-named Firfield Community School may become the hub of one of the first education action zones. Russ Wallace, the acting head teacher, said yesterday that the series of initiatives

taken at the school would take five years to bear fruit. But the two-year timescale set by the Government needed to show that a school was overcoming failure. When Mr Wallace arrived at Blakelaw 14 months ago, seconded from a neighbouring comprehensive, the immediate priority was to cut the level of truancy, which was the third worst in England. A year later, after the appointment of a second education welfare officer to follow up absentees, attendance had improved from 66 per cent to 80 per cent. The introduction of a basic uniform, suggested by the pupils, has also helped to improve behaviour. This summer will tell whether GCSE results have begun to improve. Last year 42 per cent of 16-year-olds failed to register a pass of any sort. Mr Wallace said: "Our recovery was delayed because



New broom in the classroom: Russ Wallace, the acting head teacher of Blakelaw School, to be renamed Firfield Community School

we were due to close, but we now have big business involved in the school, both as governors and in helping to develop the vocational courses we want to focus on. It has also taken time to make new appointments, although the quality of staff attracted by

the fresh start is extremely high." Among the new arrivals is Carole McAlpine, who was the head of a comprehensive in Fife and is already preparing Blakelaw for its new identity. As well as being refurbished, the school has

acquired new computer suites, which will be offered for community use. The original model for the "fresh start" process was the Phoenix School, in Hamersmith, West London, which was given a new identity and new senior staff by the local

authority under the Conservative Government. Last year's GCSE results were still lower than in 1993, but the experiment has been hailed as a success. An Ofsted spokeswoman said that two years was considered the minimum needed

to alter the culture of a school and demonstrate the improvement necessary to be removed from the list requiring special measures. Appointments had to be made, the necessary retraining carried out and staff given time to adopt new approaches.

Call for formal drugs courses

ANTI-DRUGS education should be part of the national curriculum for all schools, according to Home Office advisers (Stewart Tendler writes). The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs says in a report that the dangers of drug use would be more effectively taught in a coherent programme of lessons rather than more loosely organised tutorials. The new subject could also include preparing children for the responsibilities of citizenship and parenthood and be called a "personal social education programme". The council, which includes doctors, social and youth

workers, says there is support from Ofsted for the change but recognises the new subject would take time to establish: teachers would need more training. The report calls for anti-drugs education to include legal stimulants such as tobacco, alcohol and substances such as glue.

workers, says there is support from Ofsted for the change but recognises the new subject would take time to establish: teachers would need more training. The report calls for anti-drugs education to include legal stimulants such as tobacco, alcohol and substances such as glue.



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FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

PORTUGAL has Europe's most dangerous roads. The death rate is nearly four times worse than Britain's, the safest in the European Union. Other blackspots are Greece, whose road conditions are going downhill fastest, and former East Germany, where road deaths have doubled. Germany as a whole has a moderate accident rate.

Improvements in road safety have been especially sharp in Britain and the Nordic states, according to a study of accidents in 1989-95 published yesterday by Eurostat, the EU's statistical office. Britain recorded 64 fatalities per million people in 1995, just below Sweden's 65. This compared with 116 for Germany, 145 for France, 147 for Spain, 195 for Greece and 217 for Portugal. Italy, often the butt of driving jokes, has a death rate of 114, below the EU average of 119.

Measured by region, the most dangerous roads are in southeast Belgium, where the death rate is 14 times higher than in Hamburg, the safest. Greater London is the second safest region. The second most dangerous area is the Algarve region of Portugal. Britain's blackest spot is Lincolnshire.

A total of 44,195 people lost their lives on EU roads in 1995, 14 per cent fewer than in 1989, despite a sharp rise in traffic. Neil Kinnoch, the Transport Commissioner, said yesterday that congestion was costing the EU more than £75 billion a year.

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Ingham rails against Labour spin-doctors

SIR BERNARD INGHAM launched an attack on the Government's spin-doctors yesterday, accusing them of conspiring to "destroy his reputation."

The former press secretary to Margaret Thatcher spoke out after an appearance before a Commons inquiry in which he criticised Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's spokesman, as a political appointee who should not be paid by the taxpayer.

Sir Bernard, who was questioned closely about his own "quasi-political" role in the Thatcher Government, said that spin-doctors had leant on Labour members of the Public Administration Select Committee, damaging the integrity of its inquiry into the Government's information and communications service.

"The Labour MPs were clearly on message and they had been given instructions to destroy Ingham to preserve Campbell. I think it is really pathetic."

Sir Bernard was the first person to give evidence to the inquiry, set up after eight

Thatcher's man says taxpayers' cash should not fund Alastair Campbell's political work. Valerie Elliott reports

senior press officers were forced out or left their posts under the new Labour Government. He accused Mr Campbell of showing "blatant favouritism" towards certain newspapers and heaped scorn on his "peculiar contract" whereby he "is a civil servant when he chooses to be, and not when he chooses not to be. . . . He observes the norms and conventions of the Civil Service except when it is convenient to bash the Tories."

"In these circumstances he's not a civil servant but a party political spokesman and should be paid so and not at the expense of the taxpayer."

Labour MPs said that Sir Bernard's role for Mrs Thatcher strayed into the political arena. But he said that, as a civil servant paid by the taxpayer, he had not had a political remit "to bash the

Opposition". He admitted that he had not been "absolutely infallible" but insisted that he had always sought to ensure that the rules were upheld.

Sir Bernard added: "It is very damaging for a Government press secretary to show favouritism in the dissemination of basic information and raw news. If you are in the business of serving the media — which you are in part — you have got to serve them all equally."

Under Labour there were selected briefings "all over the place", which he said must breed a "hotbed of discontent" for there is favouritism that is blatant.

He said: "It is not assisting the Government to behave in this way. I believe it's damaging the Government's interests. And if the Tories had any wit they should campaign to

have him [Mr Campbell] paid by the party and keep him there as long as possible."

When the committee chairman, the Labour MP Rhodri Morgan, suggested that Sir Bernard was the "original professor of rotational medicine", he snapped: "That is not a compliment."

Last night Peter Bradley, Labour MP for The Wrekin and a member of the committee, denied that any Labour spin-doctor, minister, whip or any other government or party aide had approached him about yesterday's hearing.

"Not for the first time Sir Bernard is making unfounded allegations and if anybody destroyed Sir Bernard's reputation it was none other than Sir Bernard himself. He seemed quite unable to distinguish between fact and fiction or to maintain a consistent line about his own controversial record."

"It is another example of Conservatives — if he allows to be called a Conservative — seeking to assassinate personalities when they can't attack policies."



Brown is right to reaffirm the golden rule

GORDON BROWN was yesterday being the Iron, rather than the Cuddly, Chancellor — emphasising the need for "tough rules" on public spending. In six weeks when he announces the outcome of the comprehensive spending review, he will sound different, hoping to be cheered by Labour MPs as well as by the financial markets. Mr Brown should be able to be populist as well as prudent.

You can tell that the Liberal Democrats/Liberals have been nowhere near the Treasury for more than 80 years, otherwise they would not be talking about "a war chest of surplus cash". Of course, Mr Brown is being cautious, and may be over-cautious on some revenue assumptions. But he would be irresponsible to say anything else now. All previous Chancellors have stressed discipline at this stage of spending negotiations. They want to lower expectations and resist demands from spending departments and public sector unions. This is even more true when the economy has been very strong and public finances are so healthy. That is when temptations to relax are greatest.

Just look back a decade. I remember a certain John Major, then Chief Secretary, talking in March 1988 about an "economic miracle". That attitude led to decisions to raise spending over the following five years — by more than 16 per cent in real terms even after ignoring the direct impact of the recession. This boosted the Government's share of national income from 38 to more than 43 per cent, leading to the painful re-adjustment of the mid-1990s with higher taxes and spending squeezes.

Mr Brown knows how quickly a surplus can turn into a deficit. That is why he was right yesterday to reaffirm the golden rule whereby the current budget is balanced over the course of the economic cycle and the Government borrows only to invest. He has now added the further constraint that the Government will aim for current surpluses every year for the rest of this Parliament.

In practice, these goals

leave him with a good deal of room for manoeuvre. As always, the clues lie in the Treasury's Red Book published with the March Budget. On the assumption of economic growth of 2 per cent or so over the next three years, and varying assumptions about the expansion of spending, the public finances will continue to improve. Even if spending grows by 2 1/2 per cent a year in real terms over this period, probably more than the Treasury wants, there will still be a current surplus. And, after taking account of investment, total borrowing will be well within the Maastricht guidelines for monetary union, while the share of public sector debt in the economy will continue to fall, in line with Mr Brown's "prudent and sensible level".

There are risks if the economic slowdown turns into a recession and if the pick-up in private sector pay bills fuels higher public sector demands

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

— which the Treasury is determined to resist. But after the tight squeeze on administrative costs of recent years, can further restraint be sustained without endangering the provision of core services?

It is an absolutely safe prediction that Mr Brown will announce an increase in public spending of several billion pounds over the next three years. But that is just for the headlines: what counts is what happens to the underlying growth of spending. Frank Dobson can be counted upon to make the most of whatever he receives, and he will need getting on for £2 billion a year extra merely to maintain the recent rate of growth in NHS spending, and to hold down hospital waiting lists. The key test of the review will be whether Mr. Brown has been able to reallocate the pattern of spending, as well as "tough". That will be the heart of the Whitehall arguments of the next few weeks.

PETER RIDDELL

Mowlam in Tory talks

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, has become the first Cabinet minister to address a private meeting of the Shadow Cabinet (Andrew Pierce writes).

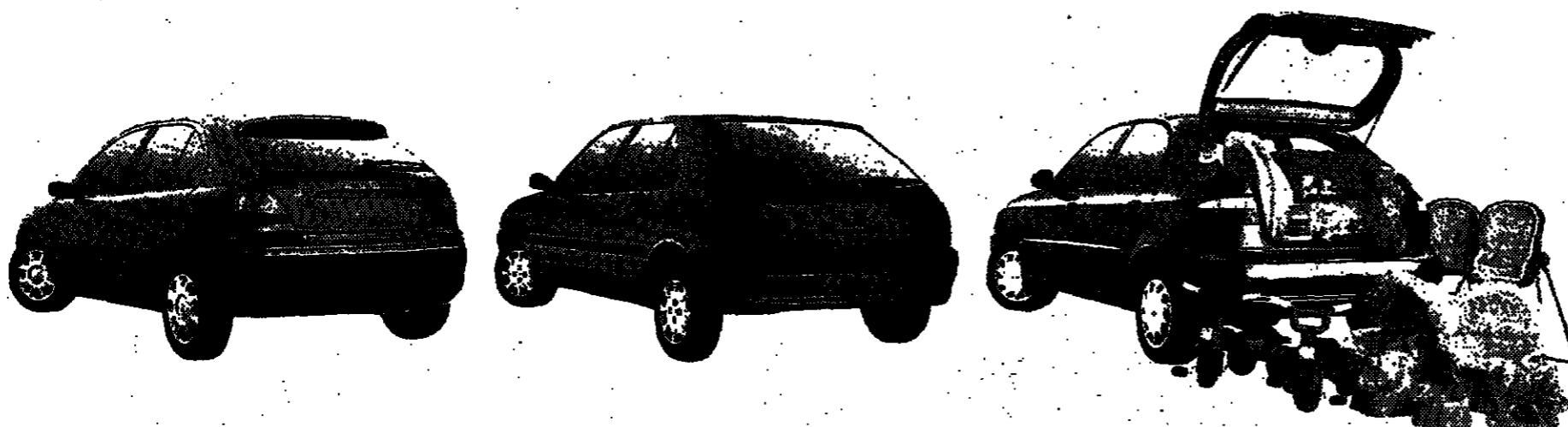
She held an hour of talks chaired by William Hague, the Tory leader, yesterday. Dr Mowlam initiated the meeting to brief the Shadow Cabinet Northern Ireland sub-committee on the details of the

forthcoming Bill over the release of prisoners as part of the Good Friday agreement.

Cabinet ministers have always briefed their opposite numbers, on privy counsel terms, on a one-to-one basis. But until yesterday no Cabinet minister, Labour or Tory, has sat in the Shadow Cabinet office and fielded questions and answers with the Leader of the Opposition in the chair.



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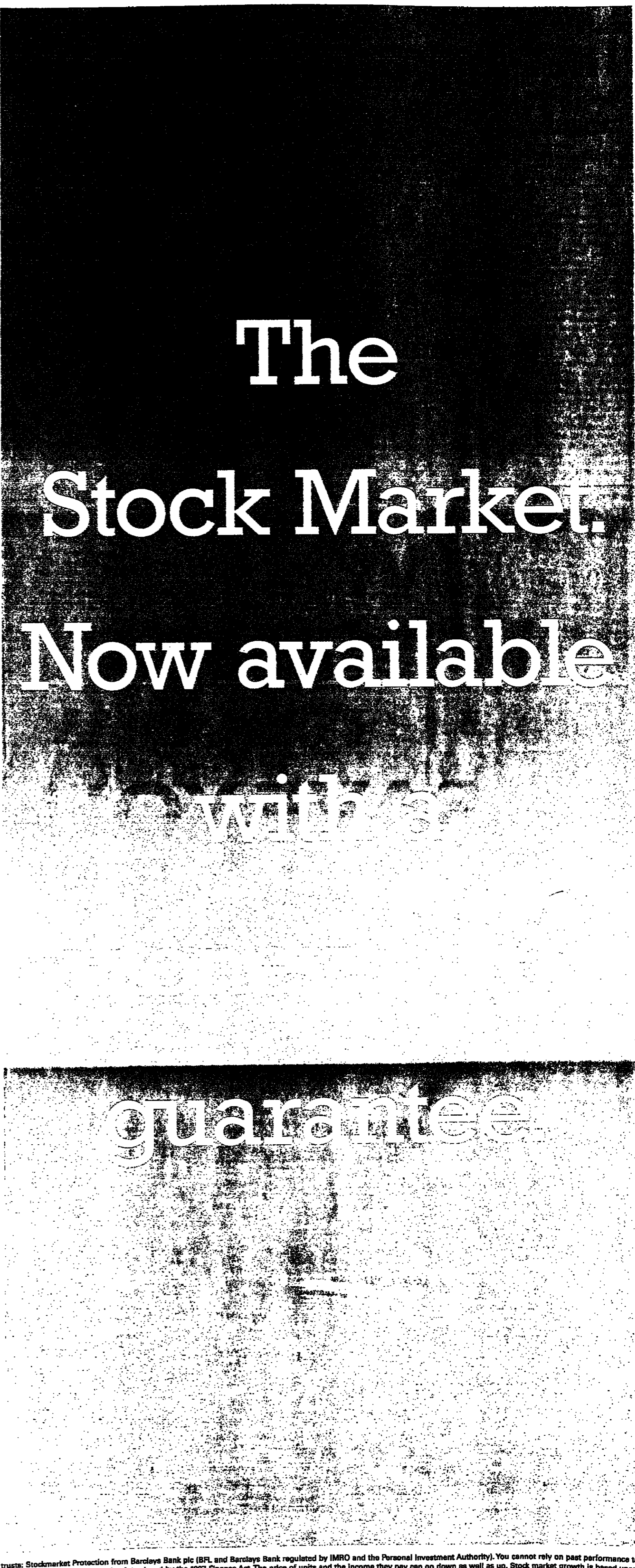


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Child workers march on UN

HUNDREDS of children from sweat shops and brothels throughout the Third World poured yesterday into the Geneva headquarters of the International Labour Organisation (Michael Binyon writes). They were given a standing ovation by delegates at the start of a ten-day meeting to draw up a new convention to protect children worldwide.

The children's entry into the United Nations building in Geneva was the culmination of a six-month Global March, organised by campaigners against child labour, which brought children as young as ten from 50 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, joined in the final stage of the march through Geneva to emphasise Britain's concern with the issue.

Pakistan feared Israeli raid

PAKISTAN feared an Israeli airstrike on its nuclear installations hours before it detonated the first of its six atomic tests last week, after an F16 aircraft was spotted on a reconnaissance mission over the country.

According to Israeli and Western officials, Pakistani ministers concluded that Israel and India were in league to attack its nuclear facilities in the same way that Israel jets destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in a 1981 raid.

Israeli media reports said that Pakistan's anxiety arose after an F16 was twice reported to have been spotted in its airspace. It was assumed to be Israeli, because India does not have F16s, but part of a force co-operating with India to launch a pre-emptive strike last Thursday. Pakistan made preparations to counter an airstrike and its missiles were put on high alert.

State-run Israel television said that Gohar Ayub Khan, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, had informed the United States and the United Nations five hours before the first of its five tests last Thursday that Israeli jets were about to attack. Israel used a variety of diplomatic channels to reassure Pakistan that it was not

Missiles were put on alert to counter strike at nuclear sites, Christopher Walker and Michael Evans write

preparing any form of military attack.

Pakistan suspected that Israeli jets were using Indian bases. However, Western defence experts did not rule out the possibility that Israeli reconnaissance aircraft could have flown from a home base to Pakistan, using mid-air refuelling, without being seen by radar along the route.

For the airstrike on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, eight Israeli bombers flew below radar level across Jordan and Saudi Arabia and took the same route home with the help

of mid-air refuelling, also at low level. But Saudi Arabia now has low-level radar systems and Israel would be unlikely to risk the overland route. The alternative route would be to fly at low level out of Eilat down the Red Sea, with mid-air refuelling half way, then across the Arabian Sea before reaching Pakistan.

Paul Beaver of Jane's Information Group said the Israeli Air Force two-seater F16s had been equipped with an advanced reconnaissance system which at 45,000ft could take photographs of targets 50

miles away. The equipment is so sophisticated that it could read the lettering on the side of a truck parked at a Pakistani nuclear facility.

If the F16 spotted flying over Pakistan was Israeli, it would underline Israel's concerns about the first Islamic bomb and indicate that Tel Aviv is not satisfied with the quality of American intelligence on Pakistan's nuclear activities.

Pakistan's anxiety about an Israeli strike was fuelled by thinly disguised warnings in recent months by senior Israeli security officials that at

tempts by Iran to acquire nuclear weapons would force Israel to launch a pre-emptive strike to preserve its national security. Israel is concerned that Iran may now offer economic aid to Pakistan in exchange for assistance with its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programme.

The Tel Aviv daily *Yediot Aharonot*, in a report later confirmed by other Israeli sources, said that Pakistan complained immediately to the US and UN, both of whom took urgent action to try to establish that Pakistani fears were groundless and to prevent any Pakistani pre-emptive response of its own. Israel's Channel 2 television reported that Pakistan had asked the United States to examine whether India and Israel were collaborating in an attack against its nuclear infrastructure. Washington said there was no such collaboration.

At the time, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was on an official visit to China where information about the anticipated surprise attack, flatly denied by the Prime Minister's spokesman and other senior Israeli officials, also reached the Chinese Government.

Islamabad cuts spending by half

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN ordered a 50 per cent cut in government expenditure to cope with the economic backlash arising from its nuclear weapons tests.

As part of the austerity drive, Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, vacated his brand-new 400-room secretariat built in the Mughal tradi-

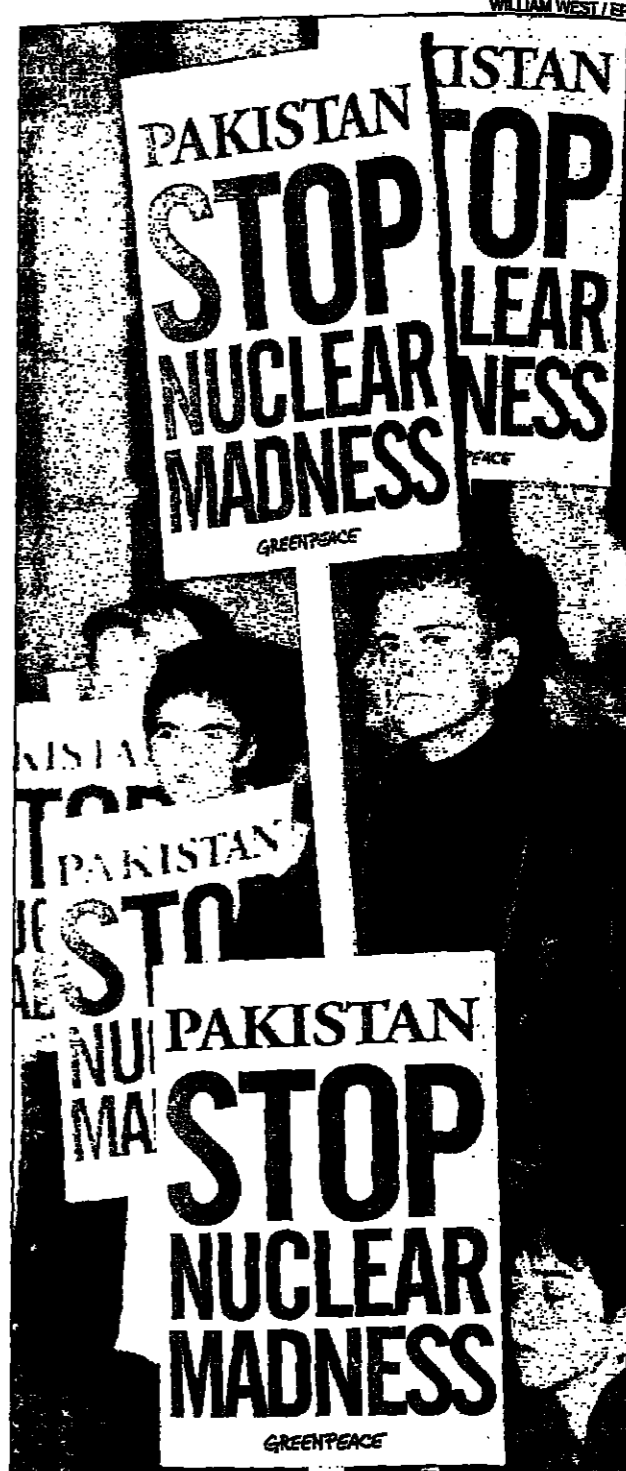
tion at an estimated cost of more than £30 million. The building might now be sold to be used as a hotel.

But the action has been criticised as being merely symbolic since his offices have moved to his sprawling mansion on a 50-acre estate, atop a picturesque hill in Islamabad.

The Prime Minister has also instructed his staff to serve only two dishes at official banquets.

"I will have only one meal a day as we all are required to make sacrifices for the country's security," he said.

But critics say these measures are not likely to make a big impact on the mismanaged economy, weighed down by £22.5 billion of foreign debt. In Delhi, India urged nuclear weapons states to move towards destruction of their atomic arsenals. (Reuters)



Demonstrators call for an end to the arms race outside Pakistan's Consulate in Sydney yesterday

Victim of bombing confronts Botha

FROM SAM KJLEY IN GEORGE

THE former President of South Africa, P.W. Botha, yesterday came face to face with one of the victims of a bomb attack he allegedly ordered. During a tense courtroom encounter, Mr Botha heard that the destruction caused by the blast was an "image of hell".

Mr Botha, 82, looked impassively at Welcome Ntumba, 53, a former security guard at the headquarters of the South African Council of Churches, which was allegedly blown up by policemen acting on Mr Botha's orders.

One of the bombers, Eugene de Kock, as well as the then head of the police, General Johann van de Merwe, and Adriaan Vlok, the Law and Order Minister at the time, have all applied for amnesty from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in connection with the blast which

injured 21 civilians. They have all said in amnesty applications that the orders for the outrage came directly from Mr Botha.

The magistrates' court in George was hushed as Mr Ntumba told of how he fell through a hole in the foyer of Khotso House caused by the explosion.

"I heard a sound like a lightning strike. I rushed towards the doors to see if the rains had started and then the walls started falling in and the floor opened up," said Mr Ntumba, who injured his back when he fell into the car park below where explosives had been planted by police.

De Kock, who is serving a 212-year jail sentence for a campaign of what he has called state-sanctioned assassination and fraud, was decorated for bravery by Mr Vlok after the bombing.

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Widow to kill Cecilia

Serbs for attacks

Villagers to reclaim

Widow told me to kill Gucci, Sicilian tells trial

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE three-week-old trial for murder of the former wife of Maurizio Gucci, the fashion empire heir gunned down three years ago, sprang to life dramatically yesterday when one of the alleged hitmen accused her of ordering the killing.

Patrizia Reggiani, 50, who appeared in court for the first time since the trial began, had a coughing fit and had to be taken from the courtroom for medical treatment. Orazio Cicala, 59, a Sicilian who allegedly arranged the murder as well as driving the getaway car, told the courtroom in Milan that he had met Signora Reggiani several times before the murder in March 1995, "and she pressurised me into carrying out the job".

He admitted that he had been the getaway driver, but in a 20-minute outburst he said that the shooting had been carried out not by Benedetto Cernulo, 36, the other accused hitman, but by a third gunman whom he refused to name. "I am afraid to do so. He is a big man and I have a wife and family."

Signor Gucci, 46, was gunned down outside his office in a Milan street. He was shot three times in the back and shoulders, and finished off with a bullet to the head as he

lay on the office steps. Police at first suspected a Mafia killing, but then said the murder had been a "botched job". Signora Reggiani, who admits she "wanted Maurizio dead" after their 12-year marriage ended in divorce, is accused of plotting to kill him with Pina Auremmia, 52, her Naples-based clairvoyant and confidante, who once ran Gucci boutiques. Signora Auremmia allegedly enlisted Bruno Savioni, a hotel doorman, and he in turn allegedly recruited the two hitmen.



Reggiani admits she wanted Maurizio dead

The trial for what some Italian newspapers have called the "Crime of the Century" was adjourned after only five minutes when it began on May 11, because of a lawyers' strike. To the bafflement of some foreign journalists Signora Reggiani exercised her right not to appear at this and subsequent hearings, which became bogged down in procedural wrangling.

Yesterday Signor Cicala said the fatal shots had been fired by an unnamed "hit" man. He confirmed that Signor Savioni and Signora Auremmia had approached him to set up the crime and find a gunman, adding that Signora Reggiani had been involved in the planning. Signora Reggiani played with a plastic rosary round her wrist before succumbing to violent coughing. She claims that the others carried out her desire to see Signor Gucci dead without consulting her. Signora Auremmia says Signora Reggiani arranged the killing and offered her £1 million to take the blame.

Signora Reggiani, dubbed "the Black Widow" by the Italian media, had enjoyed a lifestyle of yachts, private planes and parties, and was much admired for her "Elizabeth Taylor" looks. But the



Orazio Cicala in the courtroom cage at the Gucci trial in Milan yesterday, where he refused to name the hitman

couple separated in 1984 and were later divorced. She described the settlement as "a plate of lentils" in the light of the £92 million that her ex-husband reportedly received when he sold his 50 per cent stake in Gucci to Investcorp, an Arab-owned firm. She was angered when Gucci halved her annual alimony payments to £560,000, and was further

incensed when he announced plans to marry Paola Franchi, a designer who had moved into the Gucci mansion.

The Gucci case has gripped Italy as a turbulent saga of high fashion, dynastic squabbling, jet-set sexual betrayal and sordid underworld intrigue. But most descendants of Guccio Gucci — a Florence leather-maker who founded

his business at the turn of the century and died in 1953 — have long since cut all links with the firm. Patrizia, the daughter of a laundress, climbed the social ladder by becoming the mistress of a Milan businessman, and then set out to marry Signor Gucci. But, according to the prosecution, she turned to murder when the dream went sour.

She told *Corriere della Sera* from jail that she "was, am and will always be in love with Maurizio... but he was not the man I wanted him to be". She claimed he was impotent, and had shown cruel indifference to her and their children, Alessandra, aged 21, and Allegra, 17.

Focus, pages 23-25

Yeltsin enlists bankers' support

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN said yesterday that he would present a programme to parliament at the end of the month on measures to overcome Russia's economic crisis, drawing on the expertise of the country's leading industrialists and financiers.

Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman, gave no details of the plan other than that it concerned long-term measures to revive industry, improvements to the tax system and tariffs on electricity, gas and the railways.

He was speaking after Mr Yeltsin met ten of the country's senior bankers and business tycoons to enlist their support for the Government's economic policies. This follows last week's decision to raise interest rates to 150 per cent to support the rouble, in the wake of sharp falls on the Russian stock market. Shares recovered briefly, but began falling again this week, and yesterday, Sergei Kiriyenko, the Prime Minister, announced austerity measures to reduce expenditure and increase budget revenues.

But economists agree that Russia still needs outside support to regain investor confidence. They suggest that a stabilisation fund similar to that granted to Poland in 1991 would be the best option.

Serbs forces intensify attacks on Albanians

AS REFUGEES streamed into northern Albania yesterday, Western powers appeared to be wailing up to the fact that the war in Kosovo has intensified dramatically in the past few days.

Albanian sources reported death tolls from the western Decanet region varying between around 20 and 36, and Western diplomats in Pristina admitted they had seriously underestimated the extent of the latest security clampdown by Serb police and paramilitary forces. The Serbs said yesterday another of their policemen had been killed, bringing their casualty list to at least three dead in the last four days.

One official spoke of the need to bring forward Nato troop deployment in the area and suggested the alliance might soon stage overflights of the border region as a warning to the Serbs.

Another source said Western embassies were on the point of filing complaints to Belgrade of grave breaches of the Geneva conventions in the Decanet area, from where all



Western nations are waking up to spreading war in Kosovo, writes Tom Walker

aid agencies and the media have been barred for almost two weeks.

Despite the West's newfound concern over Kosovo, the Serbs for the moment seem intent on continuing their operations, which they say are designed to "eradicate" cells of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The Serbs have opened a second front from a factory their forces have occupied at Glogovac in central Drenica, scene of the massacres in March that brought the Kosovo struggle to worldwide attention.

The Serb strategy seems to mirror policies long suggested by the far-right Radical Party, which is in ruling coalition

with President Milosevic's Socialists in the Belgrade Government. Vojislav Seselj, the radicals' leader and Deputy Prime Minister, is known to favour clearing Albanians from all strategic areas of Kosovo, including the border and along many main roads.

With Decanet out of phone contact for three days, details of the fighting there have been sporadic, with Albanian newspapers in Pristina relying on their correspondents making highly dangerous journeys of around 20 miles by foot. The Yugoslav Army is said to have intensified its shelling of border villages, from where more than 1,500 refugees have fled, most of them into the northern Albanian town of Tropoje.

The most alarming reports yesterday came from Drenica, where Albanian sources said villagers had been murdered by Serb police. Murat Musliu, chairman of the human rights council in Srbica, said he saw several men being shot in the village of Poplek. An Albanian media source said many of the victims had been mutilated.

Mr Musliu said weapons had been planted near the bodies of the Albanians. His group also claimed the police were mining roads in an effort to cut the KLA supply lines linking Drenica and Decanet, known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail of the Balkans.

Refugee supplies set up

BY JAMES PETTIFER

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, is setting up emergency supply lines to help mostly women and old people fleeing from Serb "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo. A spokesman in UNHCR headquarters in Geneva yesterday said an estimated 2,500 people had crossed the border in the last 36 hours. "We are moving 30 or 40 tons of supplies to Tropoje today, mostly blankets and basic food. But shelter is the priority," he said. Andrew Harper, a UNHCR official, has moved to the north to co-ordinate the relief operation.

UNHCR policy is to try to keep the refugees with families, as many are moving to relatives over the border in Tropoja and elsewhere in north-east Albania. But the region is very poor, even by Albanian standards. The UNHCR has plans for much larger refugee movements into Macedonia and Montenegro if full scale war develops.

Villagers take on art world to reclaim stolen treasure

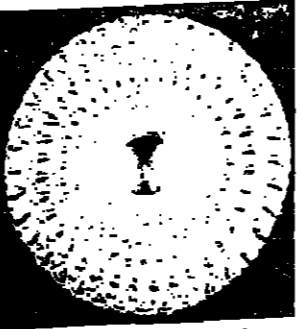
BY RICHARD OWEN

THE mayor of a Sicilian village yesterday said villagers were close to victory in legal proceedings to regain a superb ancient Greek ceremonial gold plate valued at £1.5 million and now owned by an American multimillionaire.

The villagers, whose campaign is backed by the Italian Government, claim the gold plate was stolen and then exported illegally.

The court battle over the treasure — which has taken 16 years to rack down — has alarmed high-powered American museums and art dealers since it throws the spotlight on the highly lucrative illegal trade in antiquities, much of it controlled by the Mafia.

The beautifully worked decorated ceremonial plate, or dish, disappeared in 1980 shortly after it was unearthed during excavations at Monteparato, near the village of Caltavuturo, in the mountains



The plate: tracked down after 16 years

between Palermo and Cefalù. Archaeologists said the plate, or "phiale", which originally meant a shallow flat container rather than a medicine bottle, had almost certainly been used for libations in honour of Greek gods in a sanctuary or temple.

Scholars say it may have been made to celebrate the exploits of Pyrrhus, King of Epirus (319BC-272BC). The plate is in the collection of Michael Steinhardt, an Amer-

ican collector, who says he bought it in good faith from a Swiss dealer in Zurich for \$1.2 million (£736,000) after having it authenticated by experts from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Italian police who tracked the plate's path from Sicily to New York said it had been initially sold to a Sicilian dealer for £10,000 and then to a Zurich dealer for £40,000 before being resold to Mr Steinhardt.

"This is a tale of David and Goliath" said *Il Messaggero*, noting that although stolen Italian artefacts often ended up in the hands of collectors or museums, it was rare for them to be recovered. "An obscure village has taken on the mighty."

Domenico Giannopolo, Mayor of Caltavuturo, said villagers had been outraged, to learn that the plate had ended up "in the glass display case of a multi-millionaire in his Fifth Avenue penthouse".

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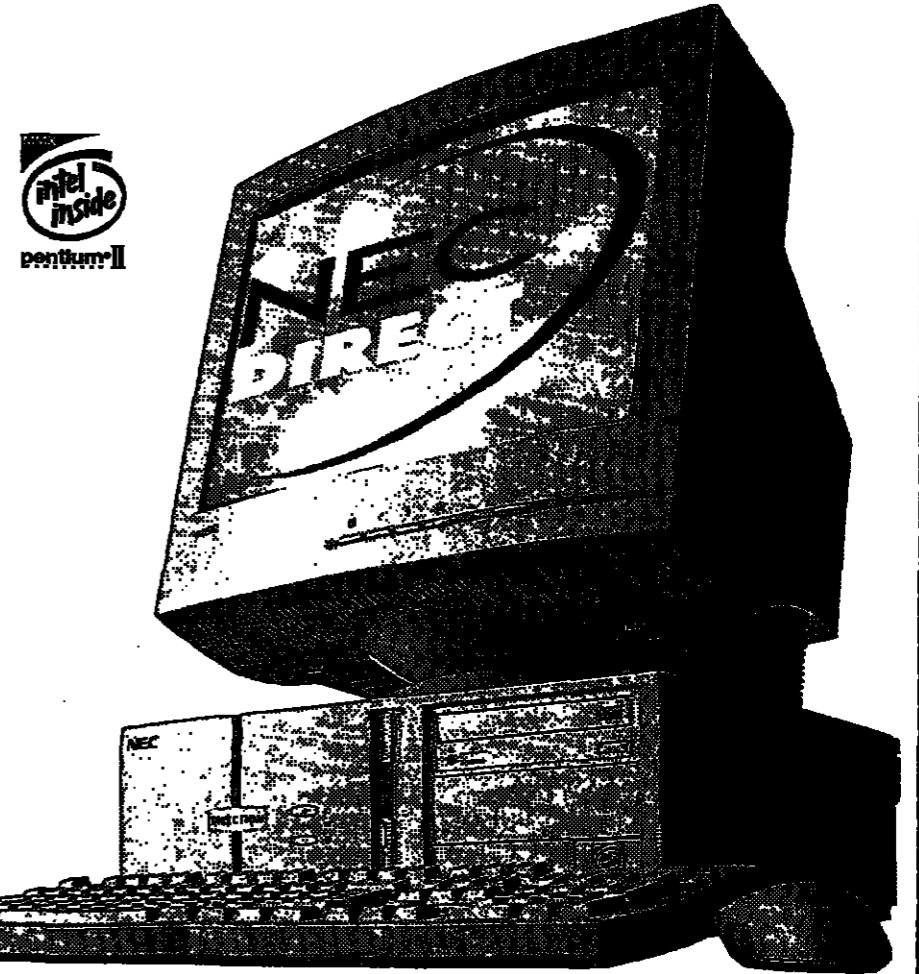
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US envoy's departure leaves void in Dublin

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE White House admitted last night that the US Embassy in Ireland might remain without an Ambassador for some time after the departure of Jean Kennedy Smith next month, as the battle for her replacement continues.

President Clinton is taking a personal interest in the new appointment, but by delaying a decision he faces the prospect, with the necessity for security checks, that his nominee might not be confirmed by Congress before the October recess and the mid-term November elections.

A White House official said: "People are aware that Dublin could be vacant for a while. It's regrettable but, as in other parts of the world where this is a frequent occurrence, we rely on our professional diplomatic staff."

The list of prospective candidates remains long and fraught with problems for a President who views every foreign policy decision in terms of his domestic audience. Mike Sullivan, a former

Governor of Wyoming who proved an asset to Mr Clinton when he was campaigning for the West in 1992, has long been on the list of those requiring a presidential favour.

His name, however, was dismissed by *The Irish Voice*, the powerful New York paper, which described Mr Sullivan as "a name completely un-



Kennedy Smith: blamed for rift over Ulster

known in Irish-American circles, with no street credibility whatever with Irish Americans."

The name most widely touted in the Irish-American strongholds of Boston and New York is Bruce Morrison, a former Democratic congressman and chairman of the federal housing finance board. He masterminded legislation to secure tens of thousands of green cards for Irish immigrants and was one of those who helped to bring about an IRA ceasefire in 1994.

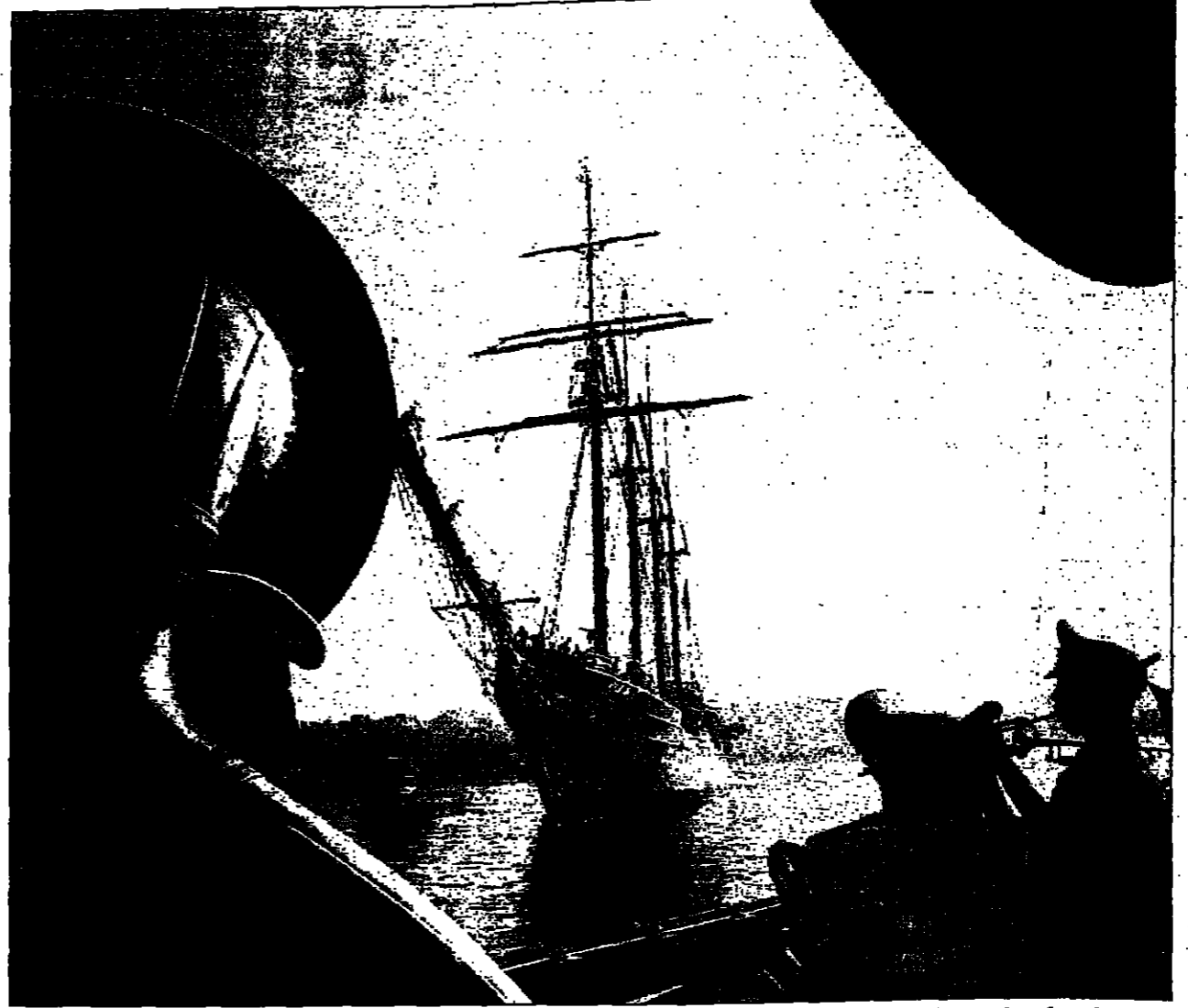
His links with Sinn Fein, however, are not viewed as the best credentials to send a message of unity during the transition to peace in Ulster. Mr Morrison has declared a "great deal of interest in the position".

He is not alone. Paul Quinn, a Washington lawyer and lobbyist who has the partial support of the Kennedy clan — but not the most important imprimatur of Senator Edward Kennedy — had already lined up the support of

three dozen members of the House and Senate before Ms Kennedy Smith made public in March her decision to leave.

Since then Mr Quinn's name has receded, as has that of Richard Riley, the Education Secretary, who is deemed to have the best political credentials for the job. Mr Riley, however, is seen as too important to the President's cabinet and his confirmation hearings could prove damaging at a time when Mr Clinton is engaged in a battle with Congress over education.

The President is expected to seek a candidate less controversial than Ms Kennedy Smith. Appointed in 1993, she has already outstayed the usual four-year term as ambassador. The sister of John F. Kennedy, she was accused of creating a rift between the London and Dublin embassies over Northern Ireland policy and supported a visa for Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein President, over British objections and before the IRA declared its 1994 ceasefire.



A Spanish naval training ship, the *Juan Sebastián de Elcano*, is greeted by a Cuban military band as she drops anchor in Havana yesterday — her first visit to Cuba since President Castro gained power in 1959.

WORLD IN BRIEF

World Cup plea to striking pilots

Paris: World Cup organisers, French government ministers and airline officials urged Air France pilots to call off a strike yesterday as the company's aircraft were grounded for a second day, just one week before the start of the tournament (Ben Macintyre writes).

Michel Platini, the former footballer and co-president of the World Cup organising committee, said: "It is the image of France that is at stake, not just that of an airline company." Jean-Claude Gaysot, the Transport Minister, told parliament: "France, the company and the World Cup must not be held hostage." The strike is in protest at a plan to cut pilots' salaries to fund an expansion programme. Jean-Cyril Spinetta, chairman of Air France, suggested a truce until after the World Cup.

Sydney police chief 'to stay'

Sydney: The British former police chief who took up Australia's toughest anti-corruption job has flatly denied that he was quitting the job (Roger Maynard writes). "I'm here to stay," declared Peter Ryan, refuting speculation that he was to resign as Commissioner of New South Wales to return to London as chief of the Metropolitan Police. Speculation that Mr Ryan, the former Chief Constable of Norfolk, was keen to leave arose after it was disclosed that he is to meet Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, next month. His position has been undermined by local politicians and the media.

Vatican appoints chief guard



Rome: The Pope has named Colonel Pius Segmüller of the Swiss Army, left, to command the Vatican Guard. Last month the previous commander, Alois Estermann, was shot dead along with his wife by a disgruntled young guardsman hours after he was named head of the tiny papal army. The guardsman then killed himself. The Vatican said Colonel Segmüller, 46, has degrees from the University of Zurich, the Zurich Military Academy and the General Staff academy. (AP)

UN fears new Angola war

Harare: Fears of a resumption of the Angolan civil war were raised by the outgoing commander of the United Nations military observer mission in the country (Jan Rath writes). Major-General Philip Sibanda of the Zimbabwe Army, who has just ended his three-year command, said there was "disturbing evidence" of a military build-up. Although he would not say who was culpable, he repeatedly referred to violations of the 1995 UN peace agreement by Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement.

DNA clue to royal imposter

Vienna: Two lockets left by Arch-Duchess Maria-Theresa, Queen of Hungary and Bohemia, when she died in 1780 have proved the man who claimed to be the son of her daughter Marie-Antoinette and King Louis XVI of France to be an imposter (Nigel Glass writes). University analysts found that DNA from the hair of two of Marie-Antoinette's sisters, contained in the lockets, did not match that of Karl Wilhelm Naundorff, who is buried under the royal family name.

Japan defence plan wobbles



Tokyo: Japan's next-generation F-2 fighter, above, shakes at high speed, it was claimed yesterday. The \$7.2 billion (£4.4 billion) warplane's wings vibrate so much that manoeuvring is difficult when it is armed with air-to-sea missiles and flying at 370 mph. Jiji Press news agency quoted sources as saying Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the main contractor which developed the aircraft's wings, declined to comment. (AFP)

Harare campus crackdown

Harare: The University of Zimbabwe was closed indefinitely as the authorities began a crackdown on students protesting over alleged government corruption and demanding the removal of President Mugabe (Jan Rath writes). Harare Polytechnic, the country's largest technical college, was also closed. Violence erupted on Monday when some students ran riot in the city centre. The rioting continued overnight at the campus.

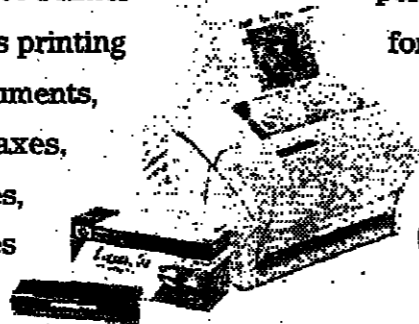
Family poisoned by dying dog

Hong Kong: A mother and her two daughters were in critical condition in hospital after apparently giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to their dog after it passed out while being given an anti-tick shampoo. Vets said the shampoo contained a highly-toxic chemical, amitraz, which is normally used to rid farm animals of ticks, or blood-sucking parasites. The women were found unconscious. The dog died. (Reuters)

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Despair descends on quake wilderness



Christopher Thomas, among the first journalists to fly into Kol, sees the grim choices facing aid workers in a region hit by fresh disaster

FOR three days Kol village awaited help after the week-end earthquake. It came yesterday, meagrely and quickly — an almost heartless dash in and out by helicopter to assess its needs. Kol needs everything. Nothing is left. A quarter of its people are dead. The rest are homeless and hungry.

Our United Nations helicopter knocked down some makeshift shelters with the downdraught as it landed and scattered such meagre belongings as people have left. Men surged forward in the expectation of unloading food, blankets, medicines and tents, but this was only a reconnaissance flight and supplies will not arrive until today. We carried only promises. They seemed angry.

Gilbert Greenall, a British doctor with the UN disaster assessment and coordination team — a specialist in accident and emergency medicine — was besieged by men carrying their wounded to him, laying them on the ground for their dreadful injuries to be inspected. He moved into the brick-built village meeting hall, the one structure that survived the tremor, receiving a flow of wounded and making instant decisions about who would be flown to hospital. There was pandemonium. Men with sticks lashed the crowds, creating space for cursory, almost momentary medical examinations. We could carry only three stretcher cases. More wounded will be taken out today. "You need the wisdom of Solomon to do this job," Dr Greenall said.

Shomila, a six-year-old girl, came in with infected facial wounds and possibly two broken legs. Her father begged for her to be taken on the helicopter. But she would have to wait another day. "Heartless as it is, let me look at the next one," Dr Greenall said. The girl was shifted to one side. The stench of illness rose

from the room. A man was brought in piggyback and placed gently on the concrete floor. "Serious," the doctor decided, and the man was taken on board.

A woman had to be examined gingerly for fear of upsetting local sentiment: the men covered her face with a blanket to save her dignity, and she thus could not see the doctor's instructions to wiggle her toes and fingers. "This is very difficult without an interpreter," he said. "I am looking for paralysis."

Patient after patient had chronic ailments unrelated to the quake. "That boy has a bone infection and he will lose his leg eventually," Dr Greenall said. "There is a lot of impetigo and nowhere to wash my hands. It is extremely infectious." Another patient had broken ribs. "He can wait." There was a woman with a suspected broken femur. "Put her on board." We took a chronically sick child and her father.

We were in and out in less than an hour, leaving behind 300 people who have suffered 20 years of war, two quakes in three months, and have just emerged from one of the hardest winter climates on earth. They were weak and exhausted anyway: now they have no means to recover. They had barely started putting the pieces together from the last quake in February.

The sick child screamed most of the short flight to Faizabad, the main town of Badakhshan province, where many of the thousands of injured are being treated by international aid organisations which have moved with astonishing speed. Everybody in the region recognises the UN emblem: it is greeted with hope.

There was feverish activity around the town's washboard metal runway: a UN-char-

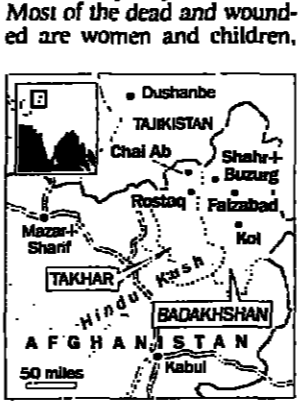


A father waits for help outside as his family shelters in a makeshift tent in Shurak village yesterday and below, Kol village, which was flattened in the earthquake

tered C130 transporter, which has been ferrying emergency supplies from Pakistan, was revving to take off. Piles of water containers, blankets and other supplies were being shifted into a decrepit-looking helicopter rented by the UN from Tajikistan. Aid workers were talking by satellite telephone to their head offices around the world.

Fuel is desperately needed. UN helicopters must fly 90 minutes to Dushanbe, the Tajikistan capital, to refuel, leaving only 80 minutes flying time once they return to Faizabad. It is impossible to reach the quake zone by any other means — except with donkeys and horses, which would take five days — because every road has been blocked by

landslides or destroyed. About 600,000 people live in the worst-affected areas, and the toll of at least 3,000 dead would have been higher had the quake struck at night when everybody is indoors. Most of the dead and wounded are women and children.



because they were inside when their houses collapsed. By the time the men ran back to the village from the fields there was nothing to be done but bury the 74 dead and contemplate another catastrophe.

They did so under an open sky, their goats tethered about them. Here and there a child, sitting alone, cried: orphans, probably. Poverty radiates from the place: it is in the ragged clothes, the flimsy footwear laughably inadequate for the climate or the terrain, which is among the most majestic scenery on earth, the hills lately covered with a haze of green from rain. Mountains rise high enough to catch snow, and from the helicopter an occasional stream glints. A clutch

of huts is always to be found next to them, for this is a parched country. It is medieval in its backwardness — no electricity, communications, schools or doctors, save for those in Faizabad. The only building material is mud.

Some of the villagers are startlingly white-skinned and even blue-eyed — they carry the blood of Genghis Khan's hordes. Almost everybody looks sick. All are filthy and dispirited. They pull you by the arm to a pile of dried mud that used to be a home. They point to their children and their well-covered wife in imploring gestures, their famous Afghan pride gone, their almost notorious independence shattered by the welcome humiliation of outside help.



WORLD IN BRIEF

World Cup plea striking pilots

ey police chief to star

an appoints chief gen

fears new Angola war

A clue to royal impost

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Aid workers find more flattened villages

Faizabad: The zone of devastation left by the Afghanistan earthquake may be 40 per cent larger than previously thought, aid workers said yesterday.

Samantha Savant, of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the tremor appeared to have hit a wider area than at first feared and


triggered many landslides in the remote and mountainous northeast.

Ms Savant said at Faizabad, hub of the international relief operation, that the assessment was based on relief flights over the area which found more destroyed villages in the northeast and south. The ICRC said it had found 1,000 people injured in

the disaster but had yet to find any survivors trapped in the rubble of houses.

The United Nations meanwhile issued an urgent appeal for helicopters and fuel. The world body said that distribution of food and shelter equipment was being held up because the three helicopters in use were ferrying the injured from remote villages

to medical centres. "The problem at the moment is not supplies. It's transport. Without additional helicopters we can't hope to help these people," Alfredo Witschi-Cestari, the UN Co-ordinator for Afghanistan, said. "We would be particularly grateful if neighbouring countries could come forward and help." (Reuters)



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Gazza, Mellor and the secret of bouncing back

AS AUTHOR of his own misfortune, Paul Gascoigne has a long summer ahead to change the storyline and ensure that the next chapter is not an obituary on his glorious but troubled career. There is a way out of the anger and shame he feels now; others have found it, perhaps Gazza can too.

In fact, you could say — as many will testify — that being sacked is an essential career move. Many successful people have suffered professional failure or rejection. The passport to their survival was their attitude: the ability to view it as a temporary setback, an opportunity to change roles.

David Mellor fell spectacularly from grace when he was forced to resign as Heritage Secretary five years ago over his affair with Antonia de Sancha and after taking a family holiday which was paid for by the society hostess Mona Bauwens.

Today he has a highly success-

ful career as a sports broadcaster and has staged a remarkable political comeback, too. Mellor, a dedicated Chelsea fan, was the Prime Minister's surprise choice to head the "task force" charged with handing the game back to the fans.

"You have to hand it to David. He has more front than Blackpool," says an old Westminster colleague who would rather remain anonymous. "Anyone else would have slunk off and hidden. Not him, though."

"After losing his Cabinet job, David just dusted himself down and set about carving a new career. Others would have turned to the bottle but he never even turned a hair — astonishing."

Others dismissed from service find the instant makeover harder to achieve. It takes time for the wounds to heal.

Jane Gordon remembers all too vividly the festering anger she suffered when she lost her job on a national newspaper. She felt

Will Gascoigne's World Cup exclusion make or break him? Bill Frost reports on celebrities who have prospered despite spectacular falls from grace

mocked by billboards featuring the smiling face of her replacement.

"There was lots of anger and a considerable dent to my self-confidence," she says. "I just had to cut off for a while and be with my family."

"I had this fantasy that the man who signed my death warrant would finally be forced to eat his words — that I would win an award for my work. It never actually happened. Jane has gone on to write three novels (the first a *roman à clef*) and has a successful freelance career as a columnist on a Sunday newspaper. During her tempo-



Human boomerangs: Mellor and Horlick

rary retirement from Fleet Street, she reassessed her priorities, regained her self-confidence and decided that family was more important than scaling the greasy pole.

"In retrospect, I see that they

actually did me a favour. I had a chance to look at myself and to decide what kind of future I wanted."

But while Jane eventually profited from her experience, others become consumed by bitterness. They are incapable of turning the page.

The psychologist Dr Dorothy Rowe says that those suffering from low self-esteem will find the shock of dismissal far harder to bear than the eternally resilient David Mellors of this world. She thinks that the secret of his continued success is "an inability to experience shame over being sacked from the Cabinet, or anything else for that matter."

Anger is acceptable, particularly when channelled positively. Dr Rowe applauds Nicola Horlick, the 36-year-old City fund manager who publicly humiliated the bosses who suspended her, and then found a better-paying job on a wave of publicity.

The option is not open to all, though. Dr Rowe says. Some people are too ashamed to look for a new role.

IF YOU feel treated unjustly, as Gazza undoubtedly does, a pattern of self-destruction can easily become established. Behind the anger and the past achievement is perhaps the feeling that he does not deserve his success, that he is unworthy in some way.

"Trouble lies ahead for the person who cannot look inside himself and realise that there is a problem, that rejection or dismissal are often self-fulfilling prophecies of a deep and unacknowledged inner fear."

"We must diversify in life and

prepare for the unexpected — construct another future. This is particularly important for someone like Gazza. Otherwise, when disappointment comes, we will be incapable of dealing with it."

Dr Rowe worries for Gazza and for all the others who find it hard to pick themselves up and start again. "The loss of a job or place in a team puts that individual into a state of utter terror. Their whole world will fall apart."

"Gazza's celebrity friends will not help him to sort out his problems. He must forget about losing his place in the England team, have a long look at himself and draw up another life-plan."

"So he has been dropped, but there are other priorities. He will find that in the end, other people are far more important."

"You can have all the celebrity all the glory and all the money that the world can offer, but all that really matters in the final analysis is our relationships with other people."



The hardest journey of all: expatriates will often find that once the euphoria of being home has waned, they will have to learn to be ordinary again

Back to a new land

British expatriates just home from Jakarta may be thankful to have escaped uncertainty and violence in Indonesia, but few will realise that their problems have just begun. Once the euphoria of escape has worn off, they will have to face the prospect of adjusting to life back in Britain.

Life as an expat makes you special, part of an elite in a foreign land. You enjoy an exclusive and elevated status, the excitement of a new and different culture, and relative wealth. But in your own country you have to learn to be ordinary again, which makes "coming home" the hardest journey of all. Even though I had been back to visit every year, belonged here, sounded as if I was from here, I found myself a foreigner in my own country.

I was an expat for nearly 20 years, a "trailing spouse" following my husband, an engineer and then a manager with an international telecommunications company, from North Yemen in 1975, to Vanuatu in the South Pacific, to the Middle East, Washington, Tokyo and Sweden.

When I arrived back in Britain, there were times when I felt so cut off from British life that I wondered if I would ever settle down. Those making unplanned departures from Jakarta may indeed find themselves similarly bewildered. They may not be able to go straight back to their home, as many expatriates rent their houses out while they are abroad. They may find, as I did, that they do not know how to deal

Expatriate Jennifer Turnbull explains why she felt a foreigner in her own country

with insurance and council tax. They will be unfamiliar with new products.

When I arrived home, I realised that I did not know how to do the simplest things because I had never done them before. I didn't know the cost of a first-class stamp or how to go about voting in the council elections; where to park, where not to park. In a foreign country you always have an excuse for ignorance. In your own, few people make allowances for you.

I remember having no idea how much anything cost. If I sent my daughter out for a pint of milk, I did not know whether she needed 50p or £1. After I returned from Sweden, I translated krona to pounds and gave my daughters the same amount for their pocket money. It was much more than their friends were getting and I once again felt awkward.

When you find yourself in that situation, people think that you are either wealthy or snobbish. They tend to avoid you, and it is not surprising that they fail to realise that you simply don't know the value of money. Suddenly, after years in which the rent and all the bills have been paid for you, you have to budget. For almost 20 years living abroad, I had not had to bother with everyday bills. In Britain I came down to earth very sharply.

Socially, you find that the people

who used to be your friends have moved on. I am in my forties and by the time I returned, my children were taking themselves to school, so I did not meet parents at the gates. There was no easy way to make new friends.

I even found it difficult to join in with daily conversation because I shared few common experiences. I did not know what was happening in EastEnders or know what the local gossip was. So you talk instead about what you do know, namely living abroad. Every time I tried to join in a conversation, I found myself saying, "When I was in Japan, Sweden, America, Vanuatu..." It just seemed as if I was on a major ego trip.

As a result, making friends becomes difficult.

I had huge gaps in my popular cultural knowledge; it was as though I had been in a timewarp and had emerged to find that everything had changed.

Admittedly it does not take long to find out the basics of living: where to buy certain things or how to tax the car. Yet I was on a permanent learning curve, never knowing when I would miss things because I was not aware that they had changed. Perhaps the biggest shock of all was having to get police clearance to go on the county

supply teaching list — a sad sign of the times.

Part of the problem is that few returning expats anticipate the difficulties ahead. Compared with the horrors of police opening fire on streets filled with rioters or the anarchy of civil war, home seems like a safe and caring place. What could possibly cause distress or anguish once you are home among your loved ones?

Well, how about the loss of income and security, the disruption of family life and the practical considerations of living with relatives in houses too small for extended families? For the trailing spouse, it is all of this accompanied by a complete loss of status and a feeling of alienation as you try to fit back into a society that has changed without indication of where, or how, or by how much.

The saving grace for me was finding a job, after a year of intensive searching, in an American international university. The students were from a variety of countries, many of which I had visited. With them I felt a certain sense of belonging, for the first time since arriving home. Here, at last, I was among people with whom I shared a common bond: that of travel and life in an international community.

Our expats will undoubtedly enjoy celebrity status in the weeks ahead as they tell friends and family of their sometimes traumatic experiences, dodging flying bullets in a distant land. And then the unexpectedly difficult work of building a new life will begin.

'I had to confess to writing a dud play'

When Michael Frayn's face went up on hoardings outside the National Theatre during the recent building works, along with those of Stoppard, Pinter, Hare et al, he felt characteristically abashed: he had never had an original play at the National in his life, only translations of the likes of Chekhov and Tolstoy. Today, however, he can hold his lofty head even higher aloft, since his new play *Copenhagen*, at the Cottesloe, is already a palpable hit.

It is high time that Frayn had another theatrical success. After a succession of hits in the 1980s, his last play, *Now You Know*, toured the nation but failed to make it to the West End. In 1990 his *Look, Look* fared worse, opening at the Aldwych but closing after 27 days. "That was a total catastrophe. I had to confess to having written a dud play. It was discouraging," he says, "but you'd never write anything again if you let the memory dominate your thoughts — as with childbirth."

Michael Frayn is happy to have another hit. Interview by Valerie Grove

school fees and a housekeeper so Michael, aged 12, went to Kingsion Grammar, which he discovered to be not a descent into hell but a civilised academy. During National Service he was sent to Cambridge, where, with Alan Bennett, he was taught Russian by Dame Elizabeth Hill. Then he went up to read modern languages but switched to moral sciences, now known (to his regret) as philosophy. "No one knew what moral sciences were, but it sounded rather impressive."

I recall that during my time



Donnish: Michael Frayn

at Cambridge, Frayn once came back to the *Varsity* offices and everyone genuflected in awe at this visitation from a revered Fleet Street columnist. In his day on *Varsity*, Michael Winner was the editor. Winner decided to start an Oxford edition and took Frayn with him to Oxford, insisting on going by taxi and telling the driver to wait and take them back later. "No profits accrued to *Varsity* during Michael Winner's term," he says. He also wrote a Footlights May Week show — "the only Footlights show that didn't go on to London."

Frayn's National debut reunites him with Michael Blakemore, who directed *Noises Off* and other Frayn hits of the 1980s. *Copenhagen* imagines what might have happened when the German nuclear physicist Werner Heisenberg went in 1941 to Copenhagen to see Niels Bohr, his Danish counterpart and mentor. It is a dense, dazzling, intellectual drama, which you don't need O-level physics to enjoy.

It has few laughs and no set. Those thirsting, like Benedict Nightingale, for Frayn's com-

edy may be consoled that a production of his short sketches, *Alarms and Excursions* — Blakemore directing again — will tour this summer.

Dissolving into hysterical laughter in the theatre is what he calls "a benediction as pure and surprising as spring" and cites Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular*, "the funniest play I've ever seen" (Ayckbourn wrote it in three days, he says without rancour.) *Noises Off* could also be so described: it ran for four years in the 1980s and is still performed all over the world.

Last year Frayn and the eldest of his three daughters, the writer Rebecca, did a "Relative Values" interview. She confessed that when her parents' marriage broke up, her response was to become the teenager from hell: drugs, truancy...

"Rebecca wanted to do that interview to tell parents of troublesome teenagers that it would be all right in the end, that they would come through the other side."

Frayn expected his daughters to go for shy introverts like himself and was astonished when Rebecca married Andy Harries, the head of comedy at Granada who hopes to revise Frayn's novel of *Guardian* life, *Towards the End of the Morning*, one of the funniest Fleet Street novels.

Inspired and moved by Rebecca's wedding, Frayn decided at 60 to marry Tomalin, with whom he had lived since 1981. "I suddenly saw the purpose of getting up in front of all your friends and declaring that you're a couple."

Having chosen Marylebone Town Hall rather than Camden's register office, they needed a Westminster address — so he asked Michael Rudman if he could use his. But by the time the wedding day rolled around, he had forgotten the false address, so the registrar had to prompt him: "Are you sure you don't live at...?"

Frayn's radio monologues — a newly enabled peer choosing his title, an anxious householder struggling with his burglar alarm — are performed by Martin Jarvis, who can also do an uncanny imitation of Frayn's smile, self-deprecatory words almost inaudible. Frayn laughs and says people never do these brilliant imitations to one's face. "Peter Nichols does a wonderful one, too. I'm told."

As he left our table for a rehearsal, a face peered back at us from the next table round a corner — Tom Stoppard, hitherto concealed from view. Gosh, I muttered to Frayn, just suppose we'd been discussing him... but that would have been a cue for a Frayn farce.



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It is only when I'm in prison that my creativity seems to blossom. I have always considered it an almost sacred duty to record everything I see in this demimonde

Born to be bad?

Visiting time lasts most of the afternoon at Blakenhurst, a grim, privately run prison on the edge of the Black Country. The prisoners, dressed in identical red bibs, sit at low tables waiting for their visitors to negotiate an obstacle course of security checks. These include passing through a metal detector, having your fingerprints taken, being stamped with a mark which shows up under ultraviolet light and removing your shoes. At least you are allowed to keep your trousers on.

Little escapes the attention of the intimidating prison guards: my chocolate bar and magazine are confiscated, and I am sent back to my car twice to leave behind my phone and a notepad. "You aren't allowed to bring in any twirly bits of metal," the guard says, pointing at my pad. He has the charm of a nightclub bouncer on commission.

An hour later you meet a prisoner - in my case the writer, aesthete and recidivist Peter Wayne, who is currently on remand. With his sensitive face and sophisticated vocabulary, Wayne seems out of place in such an environment. His voice is quiet, educated. He could pass for an academic or a country parson were it not for the scars on his neck and right ear, reminders of the afternoon he almost died after being attacked by a fellow prisoner. They had argued over a computer. "I remember lying on the floor, blood gushing from where he had slashed me with a piece of glass, and thinking that I didn't want to die in prison. Before I passed out, I had a vision of being carried out in a bodybag."

When Wayne was arrested, entering the City of London's ring of steel, he was wanted by more than five different police forces. The arresting officer discovered £40,000 in *objets d'art* in his car, stolen from a manor house in Gloucestershire. During his brief weeks of freedom, he visited his elderly parents, whom he had not seen for five years, at their detached house in Bolton. His

Peter Wayne is a writer, aesthete and recidivist who has spent most of his life in jail. Is he a misfit or just a rebel? Interview by Jason Cowley

Wayne, 42, is a mystery even to himself. He has had many advantages: a public school education, wealthy parents, influential sponsors such as Sir Richard Rogers, charm, talent. He writes a column for *Prospect* magazine, and contributes to *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *The Spectator* and the *New Statesman*. Yale University Press is publishing his monograph on the architect Thomas Archer, a contemporary of Hawksmoor and Christopher Wren. He is working on a novella.

Yet he has spent most of the past 20 years in prison, a victim of his own disregard for conventional morality. Eight weeks ago he was released after ten years in 12 prisons for fraud and armed robbery (his sentence was increased after he attempted to escape, dressed in a home-made clergyman's outfit). "I was determined to go straight, to make a go of things," he says, smiling. "But I found I couldn't cope."

Together with a young Ender, whom he met in Soho, Wayne hired a car and began a tour of what he calls our "newly cool Britannic kingdom", a one-month orgy of drunken criminality. He stayed at five-star hotels in the West Country, the Lake District and in Scotland, eating fine food and enjoying as much vintage wine as he could - all funded fraudulently. "It was enormous fun. I pretended to be a respectable father taking his wayward son on holiday. Everyone was fooled."

mother used to visit him in prison, but would always leave in tears. This time, she asked her son a simple question: why, when he had so much natural talent, had he turned to crime? "I told her that, in many ways, I'd not completely failed," he says. "People ask me to write for them; I've written for *The New Yorker*, for goodness' sake.



The "freedom" of prison

which is a bit like scaling the Mount Olympus of journalism. But she wasn't impressed. She said (in the mimics his mother, adopting an exaggerated Mancunian accent) "Oh, Peter, writing book reviews, that's nothing. With your talents you could have done anything."

He breaks off. He peers up at a fellow prisoner, a black youth, tearfully kissing a blonde, tattooed girlfriend. This seems to unsettle Wayne. "I hate myself for being such a prick sometimes. But I've been a criminal as long as I can remember. I started stealing at school. The problem was that my father, a meat trader, always let me off; and whenever I got into trouble his

influential friends bailed me out. The local police officer in Bolton used to say 'Now come on Peter, you're letting your father down,' then send me home with another warning."

Why does this story fail to convince? Wayne, a former actor, delivers his lines with theatrical relish. An accomplished confidence trickster, he seems always to be filling a role. He explains that to survive in prison, he must disguise his accent, coarsen his features, patrol the corridors with an aggressive swagger. "You've got to send out the right signals, show that you can look after yourself."

Then, as if to please me, he claims to be an "amoralist" and begins discussing Jean Genet, whose life of crime and existential rebellion fascinates him. There are similarities between the two writers. Wayne, like Genet, is a homosexual and drug user, who draws inspiration from being an outcast. He believes, again like Genet, that he is most free when, paradoxically, he has no freedom. "It is only when I'm in prison that my literary creativity seems to blossom."

journalist," he says. "Can you imagine if something happened to them, all that work?"

Is Peter Wayne a fool? Speaking to him you get no sense of any great suffering; rather, he seems to enjoy prison: the danger, the drugs and easy sex. He never expresses any regret, nor condemns anyone but himself.

He was adopted as a baby, but does not use this as an excuse. "I've never had any wish to find my natural parents, never been curious. If they didn't want me then, they aren't going to want me now. I'm hardly someone to be proud of. In fact, I've always been made to feel special. My parents have said to me 'Peter, you are a chosen one: we chose you'. I kind of liked not knowing who I am: that I could be the son of a dockerman or a lord."

Wayne has huge charm and an engaging intelligence, yet seems unable to rationalise his own criminality. Of the victims of his robberies, he can only say: "I've never set out to hurt anyone, never done anything really evil." Yet he speaks of his fellow prisoners with awe, reverently describing the compromises and loyalties that make up prison life. The worst thing you can do, he says, "apart from being a nonce or a rapist, is steal from someone's cell". Honour among thieves indeed.

"I guess I'm institutionalised now," he adds. "I'm not sure if I could survive out there. And that's why I go on these rampages, because I know that I will soon be back. When I was released I didn't sleep for four days; I had to make use of every minute. I'd not had a glass of champagne for nine years, so I drank nine bottles. Everything becomes more intense, more..."

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and unlimited credit. It is also reassuring to live close to other solo dwellers. Kate Williams, a City PA, owns a New York-style apartment in London's Bow. There is CCTV, underground parking, and security guards prowling around to protect the pampered inhabitants, who also have a gym, pool, Jacuzzi, bar and shop. "Coming home is a treat. I don't have to go out at all if I choose not to," Kate says.

only time that her minimalist home presents a problem is when friends stay. "One friend complained that I kept tidying her things up into the car."

Women prefer low-maintenance homes, though they have no objection to paying someone else to renovate. Nina Richards, the 31-year-old managing director of Wizard Public Relations, has overseen the conversion of a crumbling school boiler room to a tailor-made executive pad, complete with a vast, mosaic-bottomed bath. "I'm not even planning to pick up a paintbrush," she admits.



Dwelling on a change: Fiona Walker

Today an increasing number of single, twentysomething women are investing in property. While the Nineties girl defers marriage and motherhood to further her career, she needs a base in which to enjoy the spoils of her freedom and success.

The influx of girls on the block has forced estate agents to adopt new tactics to meet the "no man's land" needs of the Bridget Jones brigade. They are discerning buyers, as the BBC2 programme *All The Right Moves* (Thursday 8.30pm) discovers.

Safety is a high priority - video entry phones, window locks and infra-red alarm sensors are particularly important. Modern, portered mansion blocks are popular. Ground-floor flats are not. Bus stops and stations must be a short, brightly-lit walk away. And the location must be stimulating; areas with a high density of bars, restaurants, fashion shops and delicatessens are perfect for the career girl who has limited free time

high on the wish list. Not all flats are practical for the single professional woman and her accompanying clutter, but like a pair of Blahnik stilettos, some are too beautiful to resist. Lorraine Butler, the editor of the magazine *B*, lives in minimalist luxury in Richmond. Her flat is exquisite, but the halogen lights are so high that it took three electricians to construct a frame to change a blown bulb, and she has no cupboards. "I'm obsessively tidy and am always throwing things out, so it matches my mentality," she says. "It also means I no longer acquire those useless Saturday morning impulse buys one doesn't need." The

to the nearest estate agent, you can afford to take time out for a coffee first. According to Hilary Wade, of the agents Winkworth's, young professional men are far slower off the mark - they stay in rented accommodation much longer than women, or stay at home with their parents. And when they eventually do go looking, they are less certain of what they want. The traditional bachelor pad is under new occupancy, and the owner has got her high heel firmly in the door.

FIONA WALKER
Snap Happy, by Fiona Walker, Hodder and Stoughton, £16.99, is published on June 4

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Is Labour too old-fashioned for Athens?

Let's choose peers as we do our juries, urges Anthony Barnett

"We must modernise," the Government cries out, as if it is being radical. Perhaps it is — within the milieu of the media, Westminster, and its body-guard of spin-doctors. In the real world, however, an already modern country lives and breathes. Will the two worlds meet? The coming reform of the Lords provides a test case. If Blair fails it, we can draw the curtain — or as one wit put it, the wallpaper — over "new" Labour.

I should declare an interest. In my book *This Time* (Vintage), I suggest that there has been a fundamental shift in public mood that makes it realistic for Britain to adopt a written constitution. Yet constitutions need their general character to be debated. Otherwise they wither and die. And the old one has died. As William Hague ruefully admitted, the Conservative Party, guardian of the narcotic order, became a victim of its rigor mortis: "We had allowed the language," he complained, "to become so abstract and unfamiliar that phrases such as 'sovereignty', 'the supremacy of Parliament', 'the rule of law', even the word 'constitution' itself, are literally meaningless to most people."

Recent opinion polls show that the concepts have not become meaningless. Rather, what has ceased to be relevant is the special "British meaning" these terms were given by the traditional context of hierarchy and deference.

In 1993, the Rowntree Trust commissioned a MORI poll that showed 79 per cent support for a written constitution to "provide clear legal rules" for ministers and civil servants. That astounding result was treated as a blip. Now a similar poll has just been published by NOP. It reveals 85 per cent support for a written constitution.

This is a Mussolini level of endorsement. Indeed, many a dictator's plebiscite has scored less. But who has led the public in this direction? The politicians tell each other that "the people are not ready" for such a drastic measure. Since the general election no organ of extensive public influence has advocated a written constitution in Britain, except perhaps *The Mail* on Sunday. Once a cause of *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, these papers seem to regard it as yesterday's fashion. It is never mentioned on television, apparently because it is less "sexy" than debates about the Queen. Labour does not call for a written constitution. The Liberal Democrats say they "always do" then lapse into silence. Mr Hague considered a constitutional convention, but dropped the idea.

Could the media and political elite come round to public opinion? Gordon Brown now favours a written constitution, it is said. Tony Blair does not rule it out, apparently. Over the next few months, they and their colleagues will confront an issue that brings the larger picture into focus — the reform of the Lords after the abolition

of its hereditary element. The House of Lords may seem unimportant because it is largely symbolic. But, to use a current phrase, its symbolism branded Britain. The House of Lords provides an image of what Britain was. In its reform of the second chamber, therefore, Labour will be telling us what it wants Britain to become.

There are genuine problems with most proposals for reform of the Lords, such as an elected or a regional-based chamber. Often they lead to political gridlock, which as America shows, opens the way to corruption. The Government would be right to reject such measures, which anyway belong to the mid-century. The aim should not be limited to "catching up" as if other countries have solved the problems of modern government. On the contrary, democracy everywhere stands in need of revitalisation. Reform of the Lords should be seized as a chance to move ahead.

Inspired by the inventiveness of classical Athens, a colleague and I have proposed a representative Upper House selected largely by lot like a jury (while retaining some appointed "People's Peers").

None would be legislators; that is the role of elected politicians. Instead, the ordinary citizens in the Upper House could check and complement the House of Commons through scrutiny of legislation, ensuring, for example,

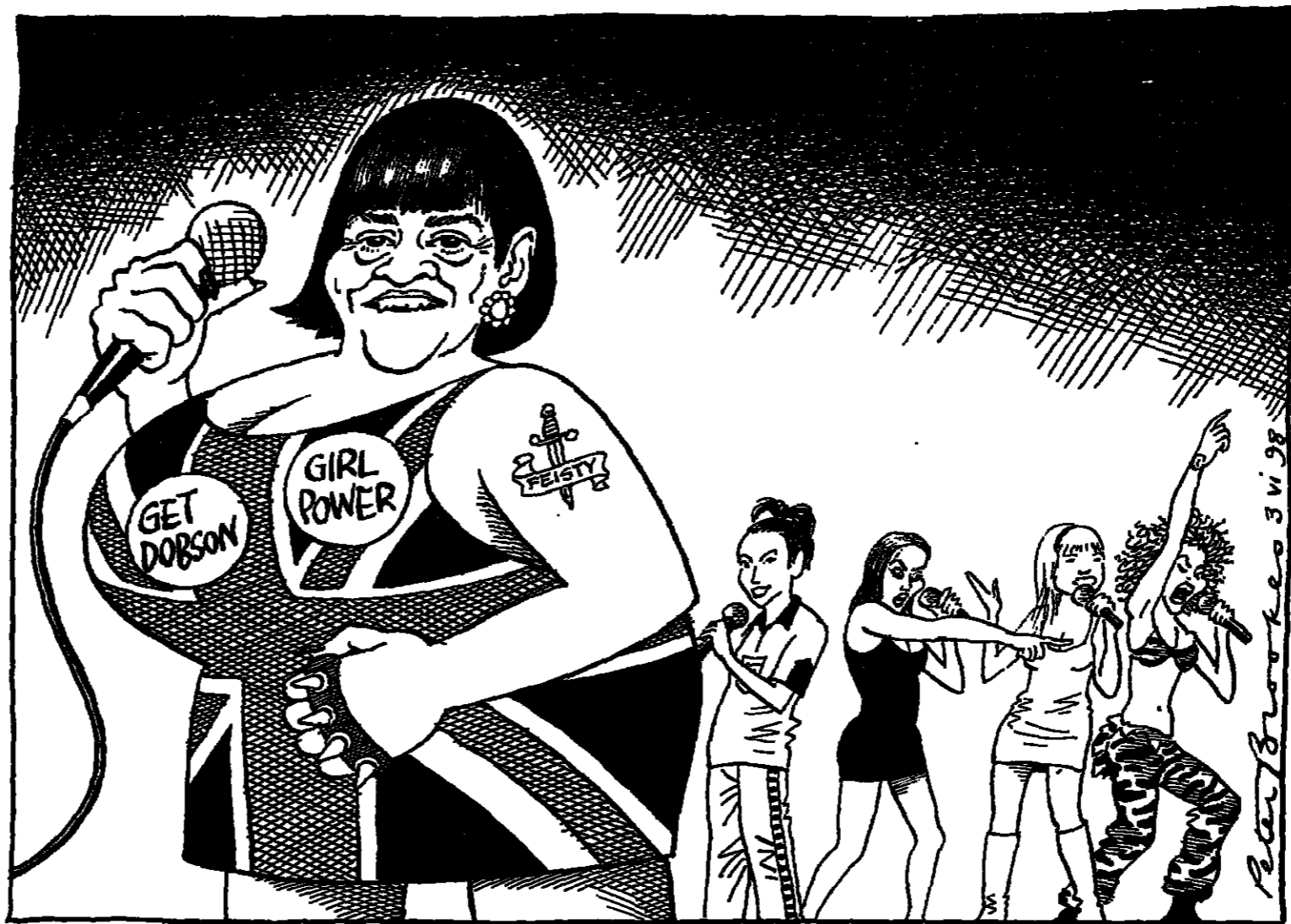
that it is written in clear and comprehensible English. Recently, Mr Hague set down the six Tory conditions for the renewal of the Lords, presumably in the hope that no reform could meet them. The Athenian option does so triumphantly.

Experiments with citizens' juries and other deliberative methods of participatory democracy have been widely welcomed for local government. A second chamber developed on similar lines need be neither exotic nor impractical. The last state to cling to aristocratic rulers could become the first to apply modern citizen scrutiny to its parliament.

It seems all too likely, however, that the Government will declare that "enough is enough" and that no further constitutional radicalism is required. New Labour will become "good old" Labour, as it declares the profound wisdom of our constitutional mores, thus closing the door on a new settlement.

The alternative is a process that will include, naturally, a written constitution that can articulate the relations between the decentralised parts of the United Kingdom and check the executive. Lords reform could open the way to a new, overall approach. Far from regarding this as a revolution, we now know that 85 per cent of the public will raise an eyebrow and ask, "What took you so long?"

The Athenian Option by Anthony Barnett and Peter Cary is available from Demos.



WHO THE SPICE GIRLS REALLY, REALLY WANT...

The devil in Downing St

Hague has a problem: Labour's theft of Tory policies makes opposition impossible

There is an odd story doing the rounds, that Tony Blair is not quite what he seems. Each night he sneaks up to the Downing Street attic, takes out a wig and a handbag and kneels in contemplation before a little wax lady. The shrine was left by his predecessor, covered in pin marks. Mr Blair returns downstairs with a blue glow emanating from his cranium. His advisers are said to be "concerned" but not yet "worried".

What does the wax lady tell him? We all know the superficial message. "Now Tony," murmurs the blonde Buddha, "remember only this: back the Treasury, screw the unions, smash Labour, hate Brussels, love Washington and keep the middle classes happy. Do this and you will be showered with golden petals." Mr Blair is a quick learner. His actions in office speak obedience.

The deeper message is more difficult to read. Each week chickens reared by the last Government come strolling into the farmyard, clucking happily. After the last general election they expected to have their necks wrung. Instead they are welcomed to the roost and given chickfeed. By yesterday the June batch alone included the Channel Tunnel link, the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Lottery contractor Camelot, central control of schools and, biggest rooster of them all, Kenneth Clarke's old public spending targets. These targets were presented at the election as transitional, a bookkeeping convenience pending a fairer, more effective, more caring set of targets. Yesterday Gordon Brown said that, after detailed investigation, the Tories' judgment of what is fair, effective and caring was uncannily similar to Labour's. It must be rigorously enforced for the rest of the Parliament. Not an inch would be conceded to tax and spend.

This is not the normal stuff of "Tony is a Tory" satire. It reflects a different legacy of the Thatcher-Major years, that of Margaret Thatcher's celebrated denunciation of *laissez faire*, her belief in centralism and her concentration of power at Downing Street. As Mr Blair rises from his knees, the wax lady stops muttering her mantra and emits a shriek that can be heard across Downing Street: "Get more control, get more control, get more control." Mr Blair's eyes widen to a stare and blue ectoplasm fills the attic. This legacy is already visible in

trivial daily interventions. The Sports Minister, Tony Banks, feels he must publicly approve Glenn Hoddle's sacking of Paul Gascoigne. Downing Street feels it must select the Queen's party guests for her. Mr Blair must stop Ken Livingstone from standing as London mayor. The Prime Minister yearns for a Prime Minister's department. He eagerly hosts international conferences to set the world to rights. He refuses to decentralise national business rates.

These phenomena are expected of those new to power. What is intriguing about this week's clutch of announcements is the vigour with which Labour is adopting an eccentric feature of Tory centralism, that of "neo-nationalisation". One of the great confidence tricks of Thatcherism was that the selling of state enterprises such as cars, steel, aerospace, gas and airlines would shrink the public sector. It did no such thing. Some industries were privatised and sub-contracts put out to tender. But new public industries were created in the service sector and natural monopolies, whether or not in private ownership, saw policy and profit determined in Whitehall under statutory regulation.

This week one of Margaret Thatcher's earliest nationalisations, that of the old police solicitors, came unstuck. The Crown Prosecution Service was set up in 1986 as a fully fledged nationalised industry. It supplanted private solicitors with "Crown Prosecutors", awash in the predictable bureaucracy and target setting. The failures revealed in the Glidewell report follow those of three other nationalised services set up by the Tories — the Child Support Agency, the Student Loans Company and the Legal Aid Scheme.

No less interventionist was the takeover and surling by the Treasury of a sizeable portion of the gambling industry via the lottery. This was described by both Labour and Tory MPs in the last Parliament as "the unacceptable face of national-

isation" (Ann Clwyd's words). Today the lottery monopoly is on its way to joining national insurance and the road tax fund as just another source of Treasury income. Both the monopoly and its chief private beneficiary, Camelot, seem safe under Labour.

This week another neo-nationalisation came to the trough. The Channel Tunnel rail link had been in the private sector but is to be taken over by that Tory peculiar, a parastatal private monopoly, Railtrack, like Camelot, is private sector only in name, in the pay of its executives and in the cost of borrowing. It is regulated and financed through indirect subsidy from rail franchise-holders. We heard yesterday that Railtrack is being granted the subsidy denied to the genuinely private London and Continental consortium. The private sector is suspect. Tory parastatals are "one of us".

Likewise the announcement yesterday by David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, that he will be the monitor and judge of good and bad schools. He has made himself responsible not just for budgets and teacher pay and bonuses but for outdoor lavatories, computers, homework, truancy and the opening and closing of schools. Local councils are to be mere servicing agencies. Bevan predicted that the clatter of every hospital bedpan would be heard in the Palace of Westminster. Mr Blunkett wants the scratch of every chalk and the click of every computer to be heard in Whitehall. He even has his own "Divisional Manager, Discipline and Attendance".

When the Government promised to disband the Tory Funding Agency for Schools, naive observers thought it meant to return all school administration to local councils. Not so. For Mr Blunkett an agency at arm's length was simply too far from his office. The national education service initiated by Kenneth Baker and John Patten is almost complete. Whitehall now promises to give Britain's schools the model bureaucracy it has

long offered its prisons, hospitals and courts, heaven help them all.

These addicts now have power surging through their veins. They are maintaining on control. Yet to whom might the public turn to blow the whistle? Once upon a time, the Conservative Party would have marched proud against the concentration of power in Whitehall. Toryism was the ideology of pluralism, of local government and civic pride. Radical Thatcherites even declared that the scope of central government should diminish rather than grow in a modern political economy.

Eighteen years of power have left such Toryism shattered. William Hague's recast Shadow Cabinet, described as "right-wing", are hamstrung by their individual and collective past as appeasers of the public sector. New Labour policies are old Tory ones, redressed in waffle. The new Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, can hardly oppose the Treasury control freaks he once led into battle. The Shadow Education Secretary, David Willetts, can hardly oppose school nationalisation, when it was pioneered by his colleague, Gillian Shephard. Other Shadows cannot demand the break-up of the Railtrack, Camelot or water parastatal monopolies. They created them. Nor can they plausibly demand greater freedom for local democracy. For two decades their ethos was centralism. Mr Hague is a creature of that ethos, a McKinsey managerialist rather than a democrat. He could not even bring himself to support Scots or Welsh devolution.

The hope is that the Tories might declare a cultural revolution. A Damascene conversion would require them to renounce the centralism of the Thatcher-Major years. Half the Shadow Cabinet would have to admit they were wrong. Shadow ministers would affirm a new scepticism towards the acts and institutions of central government. They would have to recast Toryism as drastically as Mr Blair reshaped Labour. I am not sure they have it in them.

Britain faces relentless aggrandisement by big government, unconstrained by an impotent Opposition. Unlimited power corrupts without limit. Labour may have pledged to "decentralise power throughout the United Kingdom". But the devil in Downing Street always has the best tunes.

Simon Jenkins

Alan Coren



This is a job for Blazza, the People's Polymath

My fingers, this morning, tremble as they type. Who could blame them? Today's may well be their final job. My fingers may be facing a future of solitaire, croquet, and running down situations vacant columns.

It all depends on whether — to borrow the quaint mantra of Prime Minister's Question Time — Mr Blair has any plans to visit Wapping. Because if the spirit does move him to bless these premises with a gracious visit some day soon, it is more than possible that he will want to show what he can do, for that is what he does wherever he goes. He may, that is to say, sit down at the nearest machine and jot out 800 words. And should that happen, they will, you can be certain, outshine any 800 words that I could cobble. There will be nothing left for my fingers to do but chuck a few pitiful bits and bobs into a red-spotted handkerchief, knot them to a pole, and push the bar marked Exit.

For I know what you will be asking yourself when, soon after 9 o'clock tonight, you and your loved ones are rolling helplessly about on the Aaminster, hooting at the Prime Minister's uproarious jokes on the *Des O'Connor Show*: you will be asking yourself whether it can really be only a year since the same man peddled himself a glorious victory in the EU Ministers' Bicycle Race in Amsterdam — greatly to the chagrin of Helmut Kohl, who, lacking a crane, was not even able to mount. Was ever a nation so fortunate, you will further ask yourself, as to have a leader so triumphant in such disparate skills? And if you ask it out loud, it is quite possible that any loved one sufficiently recovered will then remind you that the Prime Minister is not merely a champion comic cyclist, he is also, according to President Clinton, a natural golfer, though he has only once picked up a club. Nor, a moment or two after this recollection, will you be at all surprised to discover that the Prime Minister is not on the *Des O'Connor Show* merely to tell jokes better than his host could, with a broader grin, a twinkler eye, and bigger hair, he is also there to deliver expert opinion on the imminent World Cup. The reason you will not be surprised is that you have not only seen your Prime Minister kicking a football about, you have heard, following these captivating clips, an even more illustrious *Des* than tonight's proclaim Mr Blair skilled enough to have become a professional. Indeed, when you spotted Monday's cataclysmic headlines anent the departure of Gazza, it may well have occurred to you that Hoddle had given him the buller to make way for Blazza.

And is there not an outside chance of truth in the rumour that when Emperor Akhito's lunch at No 10 last week ran 45 minutes over, it was because the little chap was in the basement gymnasium being impeccably thrown over the shoulder of the only black-belt rock-guitarist ever to have thrilled the entire French nation with his flawless command of their tricky tongue? Possibly, pace the immortal shade of Jimmy Durante, while his left foot was cracking walnuts.

But can all this continue, without ending in tears? I fear not. When it comes to any kind of success, ours is a grudging race, but when it comes to polymathic success, the British can grow very snuffy indeed. We wonder if certain people can still get their boots on. We wonder if they can still get their hats off. Especially when the paragon just happen to come in pairs: husbands will not want to be told that Tony Blair would have had that shelf up in seconds, any more than wives will want to be asked why they are not bringing in £200,000 per annum like Cherie, never mind taking two stone off at the drop of a calorie. May I therefore humbly suggest to the Prime Minister that, if he wishes to remain one, he would be advised to think twice before yet again effortlessly succeeding at something at which the rest of us can only struggle. That he has within his grasp both the Booker Prize and the London Marathon I do not for one moment doubt: I doubt only the wisdom of his grasping them. So should the four extant Spice Girls try to ring him from the gum tree they currently find themselves up, the smart move — though he has, of course, perfect pitch — would be not to take the call.



el, who I reckon is something of a Miss Cunegonde, the "excessively handsome" young wench who so enchants *Candide*.

THE exotic Michael Brown, the fallen Tory MP, has returned to Westminster. He was installed in the gallery as a sketchwriter yesterday for *The Independent*. Glad to hear the newspaper, so right-on, has decided to adopt a more generous line on cash for questions.

JASPER GERARD

Mercy flight

TONY BANKS, that stout defender of Glenn Hoddle, has been protecting another lame animal. The Sports Minister failed to turn up for a recent meeting at his department in order to care for a pigeon his chauffeur had run over. Banks (pictured), a caring, cuddly, kind of guy, was in no doubt about his duty. "It is true, I was late for a meeting, although I don't think I missed it altogether," Banks tells me, confiding that he doubts whether his day job is "worthwhile". "I can't remember which meeting. I go to so many, most of which I probably don't need to be at anyway. I have picked up plenty of pigeons and taken them home. That gets my priority over meetings any day."

The Banks abode is fully equipped for wounded wildlife. "I have got a cage and a full chest of medicine, so when I bring the bird back I give it an inspection and, depending on the result, either release it or nurse it back to health." If the bird's injuries are too severe, he airlifts it to a pigeon rescue centre at Croydon. "I shouldn't be saying this, because I will be invaded by limping pigeons from your readers." I gather the bird made a full recovery.

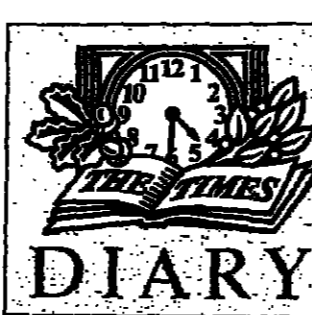
SAD boy news. David Baddiel and Frank Skinner, the presenters of Fantasy Football League, are keeping Paul Gascoigne in their team. The television comedians are retaining the couplet "Gazza good as before, Shearer certain to



score" in their updated version of *Three Lions*, their hit single from Euro '96. They hope it will become an anthem of defiance against Glenn Hoddle.

Spud she likes

ANN WIDDECOMBE was certainly an imaginative appointment as health spokesman. As pictures of the Tory heavyweight rather suggested, Miss W has little time for fashionable diets. In conversa-



tion with William Hague's big gun yesterday, I braced myself to ask the question the nation has been pondering: what does she eat for lunch? "No meal is a meal unless there is a plateful of potato in its own right," she told me. When I ran this past Frank Dobson yesterday, he was diplomatic. "I would not exclude potatoes but too much of one thing can be bad for you," he says. "I keep my food varied with plenty of vegetable and fibre." Hmm. He has always struck me as a bit of an egg and chips man, but then Ken Clarke was a highly successful Health Secretary puffing on cigars and swigging ale. Ann should go down a storm.

GERI HALLIWELL, the Spice Girl on a one-way journey to anonymity, has been promptly replaced by a red-headed puppet. A crisp manufacturer, who has been

employing the singing quintet to promote his snacks, was about to snap the gals for some advertising nonsense when Ginger Spice went sulking from the group. The puppet, I gather, did little to reduce the combo's audio quality.

Welsh carp

THE green, green grass of Pontypridd has become a battleground over the soul of Tom Jones (pictured). Labour is planning a millennium museum to its hometown hero. "We must have a permanent tribute to Tom," coed councillor Joyce Cass, who hopes Jones will open the museum on his 60th



birthday, in 2000. Plaid Cymru (hiss) takes a less charitable view of the crinkly Lothario, who once paid tribute to the Valleys but oddly lives elsewhere. "What has he ever done for Pontypridd other than make us a laughing-stock for the knicker-throwing brigade?"

CLARE SHORT has suffered a tricky desertion. Jessica Crowe, her firmly built special adviser, known as "Baby Short", has stalked out to work on an even more PC project on human rights. Described rather alarmingly as "the brains behind the operation", she has been replaced by a former Robin Cook slave, David Mepham. I hope he has Ms Short's interests at heart.

Candid tale

EMMA TENNANT, cerebral scion of the lively literary clan which includes delicate Stephen, striking Stella and the holidaying Lord Glenconner, is writing her "rather gripping" memoirs, inspired, she says, by Voltaire's *Candide*. "It will start at my coming-out ball in 1956, and becomes a quest through the worlds of gambling, satire and revolution. The Tennant soap opera plays throughout." Emma is 50 pages into her draft, and is stuck on a role for her beguiling niece Stella, (pictured) the "super" mod-

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR ALAN MILNE

Professor Alan Milne, political philosopher, died on May 24 aged 76. He was born on April 30, 1922.

When Alan Milne was blinded by a German sniper's bullet in the closing days of the Second World War, there was little in his brief past to suggest that a distinguished career in academic political philosophy lay ahead.

Alan John Mitchell Milne was born in Marlow, the only child of Ewan Milne, a Fraserborough businessman, and his wife, Dorothy. He went to the Dragon School in Oxford, followed by Uppingham.

After his discharge from the Army, he enrolled at the London School of Economics, taking the old BSc Econ degree. This course, designed to furnish a liberal education across the social sciences, suited him perfectly.

His first teaching post was a lectureship in philosophy at Queen's University, Belfast, where he acquired a reputation as an excellent teacher and a steady producer of books and articles.

The ultimate influence on Milne's thinking was Hegel, but it was a humanised rather than a metaphysical Hegel: Hegel filtered down to Milne through the Anglo-Hegelians.



For Milne philosophy was no neutered owl but grounded in the practicalities of life

especially Collingwood. He used to say that anybody puzzled by what differentiated philosophy from other forms of inquiry could do no better than read Collingwood's Essay on Philosophical Method.

For Milne, philosophy was no neutered owl of Minerva. It arose from the practicalities of

life, and returned fairly quickly to them. His own politics would now be described as a liberal version of "old Labour".

Reading was, of course, always a problem for a blind philosopher, in the days before cassettes. Apart from the limited resources of Braille and talking books, he had a panel of regular readers.

At home, he was a genial and generous host, happy to talk about anything from the concrete universal to cricket. With his spare, soldierly figure and measured speech, he was capable of dominating a gathering.

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Littlestone, became his second wife.

He lived a strictly disciplined life. His day began with a routine of pre-breakfast physical exercises, then there was a full day of academic work, usually rounded off with a post-prandial whisky.

His last appointment was as Professor of Politics at Durham. This period was overshadowed by what he saw as destructive changes to university funding, and above all, by the illness and death of Anita.

Milne was in many ways a complete university man. He founded no school of doctrine and sought no disciples. But his research output was substantial in every sense, widely respected and quoted.

At home, he was a genial and generous host, happy to talk about anything from the concrete universal to cricket.

Alan Milne is survived by his third wife, Susan, and by seven children, four by his first wife, Paula, three by his second, Anita.

PHILIP O'CONNOR

Philip O'Connor, writer, died on May 29 aged 81. He was born on September 8, 1916.



O'Connor in 1996, half a century on from Fitzrovia

AS A writer and exhibitionist, Philip O'Connor's principal subject was himself. He talked incessantly about his life, and for the last 20 years, about his death.

AS A rare glimpse of his dramatic talent came in 1956, when the British Film Institute directed an adaptation of one of his poems, Captain Busby, with O'Connor in the lead.

At seven he was whisked away from his French family, back to England, and deposited with a guardian in Clapham. After some spells living with his mother and one elder sister, some time with a one-legged bachelor on Box Hill and a brief stay in the Maudsley Hospital as an 18-year-old schizophrenic, he embarked on an uncompromising career

as a writer. He introduced himself to Aldous Huxley, and surprised T. S. Eliot by jumping out from behind a door and saying "Boo".

He invented himself, although he would deny all responsibility. He was endlessly funny, with a lightning wit.

Philip O'Connor also largely invented himself, although he would deny all responsibility. He was endlessly funny, with a lightning wit.

He published a novel, Steiner's Tour (1960), and two further volumes of autobiography, Vagranzy, a Penguin special about Britain and its down-and-outs in the 1960s.

His inquiry on behalf of the Government into rioting in Vietnamese detention camps was a fine piece of work.

Retiring to Gillingham in Dorset, he gave more time to fly-fishing and hare-hunting, which had been his chief source of relaxation in his busy years at the Bar.

He happily, illness cut short his retirement. Major surgery in the autumn of 1997 did not keep him away from the beagles for long; he hunted throughout last winter. His final illness was fortunately brief. He is survived by his wife Sheila, two sons (one of whom has followed him to the Bar) and two daughters.

MR JUSTICE MICHAEL KEMPSTER

Michael Kempster, QC, Justice of the Court of Appeal of Hong Kong, 1984-93, died on May 28 aged 74. He was born on June 21, 1923.

OF ALL the various qualities that Michael Kempster brought to the Bar, and to his

successive judicial appointments overseas, enthusiasm was the key. The same joie de vivre permeated his happy family life.

In his early years at the Bar it was still possible to be an all-rounder and, having joined the Midland Circuit, Kempster turned his hand to fields

as diverse as factory accidents, crime, gaming licences, performing rights and many others besides.

At Mill Hill School, where he was head boy and, many years later, chairman of the governors.

at Mill Hill School, where he was head boy and, many years later, chairman of the governors.

During a posting in Calcutta, he took part in a court martial, after which he set his sights on a career at the Bar.



A wartime court martial led Kempster into the law

He took silk in 1969. He was engaged as a leader in many of the principal libel and copyright cases of the day, and national newspapers consulted him regularly.

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publishing (Schroeder v Instone). He achieved a rare early success for Private Eye (Beloff v Pressgram), and served on the Younger Committee on Privacy. One of his last cases at the Bar was to mount on behalf of the MCC a brave stand against the commercialisation of cricket.

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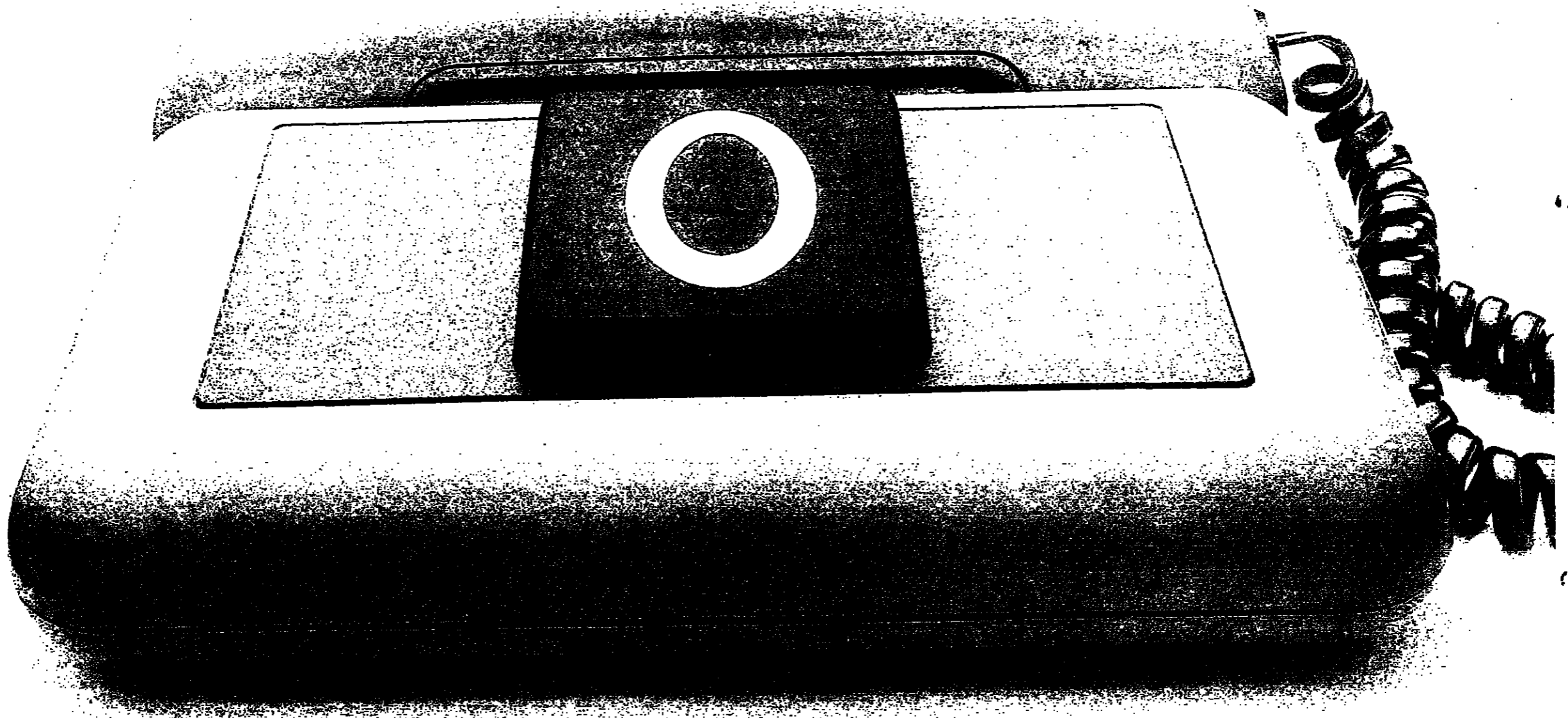
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ON THIS DAY

June 3, 1953... 0161 273 8433

Starting June 19 when you call Italy just add a zero.



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ITALY

FOCUS

As Italy prepares for a millennium jubilee, Richard Owen introduces a special report on a country that has found a new stability

The politics of optimism for the new dawn

Two years after the historic shift to the left that brought the centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi to power, Italy is poised to end the old millennium and enter the new one with an increasingly stable political system, a healthier economy — with an ambitious privatisation programme — and a reinvigorated pride in its cultural heritage.

At the same time, Signor Prodi and his team in the "Olive Tree" coalition have to reckon with a number of pitfalls along the path to the year 2000: their continuing dependence on the hard Left; the high unemployment on which trade union discontent feeds, especially in the poorer South; and above all the prospect that Italy's hard-won membership of the euro — the forthcoming European single currency — will exact a political price in welfare reforms that could strain the consensus of the centre-left coalition.

The Prodi coalition — which includes not only the ex-Communist Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) but also centrist parties and the left-wing remnants of the disgraced Christian Democrats — is also under strain over proposed constitutional reform, which has led senior leftwingers such as Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Luciano Violante, the Speaker, to talk recently of early elections.

Signor Prodi might be tempted by early elections for a quite different reason: to capitalise on the wave of national pride that has followed Italy's achievement in qualifying for the euro, with Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Budget and Treasury Minister, bringing down inflation and the budget deficit through a deft combination of spending cuts, a one-off "euro tax" and some "creative accounting".

The coalition's secret weapon is that it has such veteran safe pairs of hands as Ciampi

and Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister (both former prime ministers) at its core. Signor Prodi himself — an economics professor who agreed to front the Olive Tree as a stopgap, but is turning into an astute, long-term leader — must be tempted to go to the polls to increase his majority so that he no longer has to rely in the Lower House on the votes of the hard-left Rifondazione Comunista, led by Fausto Bertinotti. But Signor Prodi has to bear in mind that the euphoria of the April 1996 elections has faded.

The fact that the Prodi Government is still in power is



Romano Prodi: leads coalition shrewdly

Nord-Est led by Massimo Cacciari, the Mayor of Venice. Signor Prodi can thus claim to have made some headway toward his professed goal of giving Italy a more stable bipolar parliamentary system of alternating left and right blocs. In the May elections, involving ten million voters — a fifth of the electorate — the centre-right Freedom Alliance led by Signor Berlusconi, composed mainly of his Forza Italia and the "post-Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale, led by the shrewd Gianfranco Fini, shared the spoils with the Olive Tree, leading Massimo D'Alema, the PDS leader, to observe that this was "bipolarism in action".

On the other hand, the parliamentary bicameral commission on constitutional reform is dangerously bogged down, with its debates becoming entangled with arguments over whether the Italian judiciary is picking unfairly on Signor Berlusconi over corruption allegations.

The shape of reform is becoming clearer: Italy seems certain to opt for a popularly elected Presidency, whose powers would coexist with those of the Prime Minister. The tussle is over how the elected President's powers should be defined.

But Italy is looking ahead, not back. The Constitution may be further amended this year to allow the return to Italy of the male heirs of the exiled Royal Family, the Savoy. Ousted in the 1946 referendum, they would return as ordinary citizens, but their presence would symbolise the emergence in the new millennium of an Italy more at peace with itself.

For the immediate future, Signor Prodi will have to negotiate several more hurdles to ensure that he survives in power beyond next autumn: the pact he forged with Rifondazione Comunista only runs for a year.

The hard Left has several times tried to back Signor Prodi, forcing him to rely on

in itself a sign of change: this is no short-lived coalition of the kind that has plagued Italy since the Second World War.

The collapse of the Christian Democrats as a result of an anti-corruption drive of 1992 led to an overhaul of a system that had kept the Left out of power for decades because of fears of communism. The vacuum was at first filled by Silvio Berlusconi's new right-wing party Forza Italia, in alliance with the separatist Northern League led by Umberto Bossi.

But the Berlusconi interlude lasted only nine months, while the threat of northern separatism has receded. The Northern League fared badly in last month's local elections, as did the new and more moderate pro-autonomy Movimento del

Rome braced for pilgrim invasion

Many Romans fear that the forthcoming 13-month Vatican extravaganza of celebrations for the year 2000 jubilee will be used by the Roman Catholic Church to reinforce its influence and power in the capital.

They are also concerned that the sheer human weight of the celebrations will make life a daily inferno in a city already plagued by overcrowding and traffic jams.

According to Vatican estimates, between Christmas 1999 and January 2001, about 24 million pilgrims will descend on Rome. In May, the Vatican announced a total of 139 events, cultural, religious and musical, to celebrate the jubilee. More than 20 of these should involve more than 200,000 people, half a dozen up to 600,000. In January 2000, a rally of young people will bring together two million. Officials are still anxiously seeking an area which can hold an event of this scale. There will be processions, rallies, even a marathon, hailed as the greatest Rome has ever seen.

The programme may have filled fervent Catholics with pride, but it has also struck terror into the hearts of many Romans. Most are Catholics, but there is also a strong tradition of anti-clericalism. This was bred by centuries of familiarity with the Vatican and its power over Rome, and rooted in the Risorgimento, when the Pope opposed the creation of an Italian nation. Giovanni Negri, co-ordinator of the Lay Observatory on



Designer Angela Missoni (inset) and an outfit from her 1998-99 collection in Milan

Signor Berlusconi and the Right. More trouble looms with Rifondazione Comunista over the enlargement of Nato, over the proposed introduction of a 35-hour working week, and over cuts to Italy's pensions sector.

If "Il Professore" looks confident and relaxed it is because he calculates that the hard Left will, in the end, continue to back him for fear of letting the centre Right return to power. That, plus the discreet support of President Scalfaro and of leading industrialists such as Gianni Agnelli, the Fiat patriarch, may yet allow Signor Prodi to make history and complete his five-year term.

Rome braced for pilgrim invasion

the jubilee, a watchdog association of intellectuals, declared after the events were announced: "It is worse than we feared. There will be chaos. It seems like a demonstration of power, coming after calls for changes to the abortion laws, demands for subsidies for Catholic schools and calls for political unity among Catholics. Rome is not Tehran. This amounts to an occupation."

According to a poll, 65 per cent of Romans are in favour of the jubilee celebrations. But this satisfaction is partly due to the fact that the jubilee has brought financing for a host of long-overdue renovation projects which will make Rome a more efficient city afterwards.

There are also dark mutterings that many projects will line the pockets of building entrepreneurs who are well connected with the Vatican or with the political establishment. Past experience, particularly in the wave of construction before the 1990 World Cup, would tend to support this view.

For the time being, most Romans are suffering daily irritation from hundreds of roadworks which make traffic even more difficult than usual. Last Saturday Romans had an antipasto of the jubilee celebrations with the arrival of about 250,000 members of Catholic groups from all over Italy.

Entire quarters of the city were closed to traffic. A similar event on a weekday would have more dramatic effects.

PAUL BOMPARD

New faces join fashion dynasty

When Gianni Versace was murdered, the Roman Catholic Church in Milan threw open the Gothic magnificence of the cathedral for the funeral. Paul Bompard writes. With the area cordoned off by police, live television coverage, the late Diana, Princess of Wales, weeping, Sting and Elton John performing, it was very close to a state funeral.

In fact some Italians were furious that the Church should show such deference for a man who hardly embodied the highest Catholic virtues and was simply a prince of fashion. For Italy, a land that has abolished all aristocratic titles, the fashion world is an ersatz aristocracy. It is an irresistible combination of prestige, glamour, creativity, and a gigantic

fashion industry analyst for *Sole 24 Ore*, the financial daily. With the economic crisis in the Far East, production costs there have become even lower. Also, the World Trade Organisation has decided, from 2005, to abolish the quotas that now limit exports from the Far East.

On the creative side of fashion, little has changed over the past few years. The top designers are still the same. Valentino made his name in the Sixties; Armani, Versace, Ferré and Fendi emerged during the Seventies; and Dolce & Gabbana, Romeo Gigli and the late Moschino, appeared in the Eighties.

The only important new name is Prada, an old family firm that has grown rapidly in recent years. This lack of

Behind the glitz is a vast money-making machine

new generation is worrying, says Daniela Petroff, fashion writer for *Associated Press*. Most of the top names are no longer doing their own designs, having design departments that use young designers from all over the world.

There is, however, hope in new generations of the established names. At Missoni, Angela Missoni, daughter of the founders of the house, is increasingly involved in design. Armani's niece, Silvana, has brought fresh input to her uncle's firm.

Of the top names, a few have become public companies or part of holding companies, but most of the fashion industry is still controlled by family groups. One reason is that fashion houses are very profitable. Many have earnings, after tax, of about 15 per cent of turnover. This tends to reflect, in business, the glamour that is so carefully cultivated on the runways.

business that fuels top international names and thousands of small firms across the country. Behind the glitz and glamour lurks a vast money-making machine that, after tourism, is Italy's biggest industry, employing more than a million people.

Fashion and textiles together have an annual turnover of about £30 billion. Of this, about £16 billion is in exports, twice Italy's imports in the same sector. The boom that began in the Eighties is beginning to taper off — growth in 1997 was only about 3 per cent compared to more than 10 per cent in 1995 and 1996 — but there is still optimism.

One trend is for many Italian firms to shift part of their production to Eastern Europe, where costs are lower and there is a long tradition in textiles and clothing. The threat over the next few years will come from the Far East, according to Paola Bottelli.

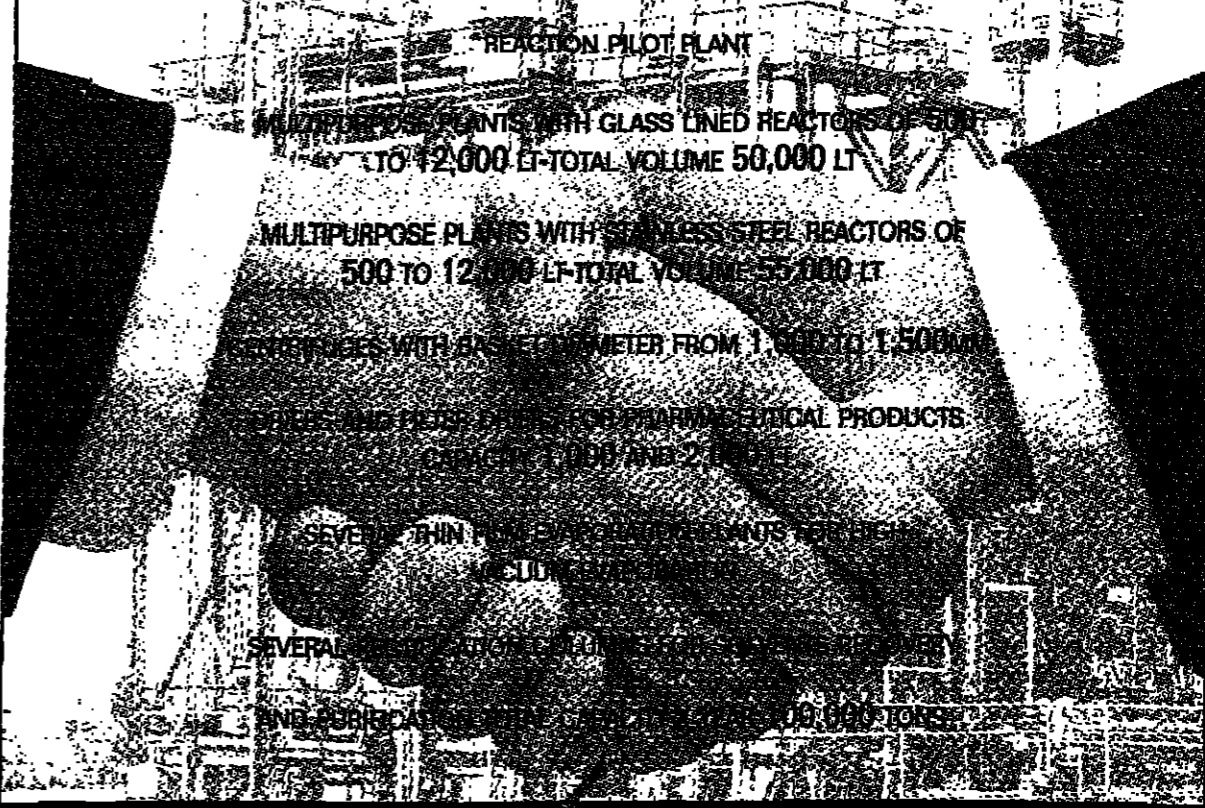
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The heart and soul of fine design

For four decades, Milan has proclaimed itself the style capital of the world. Paul Bompard reports

For 40 years Italy has dominated industrial design, and Milan remains the undisputed design capital of the world," says Gull Capella, the Spanish architect and design expert for the Italian architecture and design review, *Domus*.

There have been moments when other countries, the UK for instance, produced a crop of brilliant and innovative designs and designers. But from the Fifties until now, Italy has continued to reign supreme, and virtually unchallenged.

Today Italian manufacturers are using many foreign designers, and in some cases production has moved to countries that offer lower costs. But the heart and soul of contemporary industrial design remains firmly rooted in Milan and in northern Italy. There are numerous companies that produce and export all over the world — from office furniture to lighting and kitchenware, traditional fruits of this uniquely Italian combination of industry and aesthetics.

The Fifties and Sixties, when Italian drawing boards revolutionised the appearance of everything from coffee tables and lighting to typewriters and car bodies, are long past. But another revolution, within the world of design, has kept Italy firmly in the vanguard: industrial design has almost completely split off from architecture, and Italy has successfully assimilated a number of brilliant foreign designers who work for Italian manufacturers. "Italian design began after the war. A new generation of architects built modern homes and offices and then felt a need to create the furniture to put inside them, because they didn't like what was in the shops," says Signor Capella. "This idea had its roots in the Bauhaus in the Twenties."

But Bauhaus was functionalism, a philosophy that reappeared in Germany after the war as the sternly rational "Gute Form". "In Italy, instead, pioneers such as Gio Ponti, Vico Magistretti, Marco Zanuso and Achille Castiglioni developed the school known as "Bel Design". Signor Capella says.

They created furniture, lights and door handles for their new buildings. Things had to work, of course, but style, elegance and the aesthetic concept had priority. It was a school of design which reflected the prevailing trends in architecture, a direct by-product of architectural thinking. Their slogan was "from a spoon to a city", the idea being that the architect should design everything.

Since then things have

spawned many of the most recent ground-breaking designs.

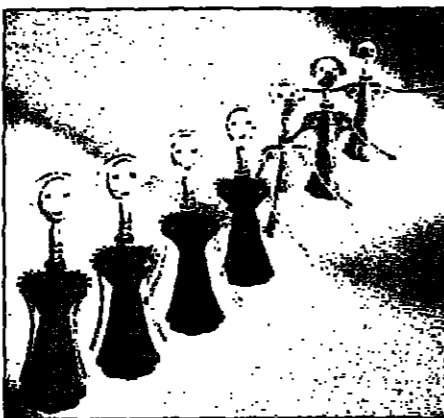
"In this latest phase there are two main trends," Signor Capella says. "The first is ideological, ecological, a little 'new age', using materials such as bamboo and new environment-friendly plastics. One designer, for instance, has a line of products called 'Kundalini' which are supposed to have been conceived while meditating.

"The second, instead, is very high-tech, using materials developed for military uses or space and aeronautical engineering. New light alloys, carbon fibre, new synthetics, and so on."

The star designers in this latest phase are Italians such as Giovannoni, Citterio, Bartoloni, and foreigners such as Jasper Morrison from the UK, Mark Newson from Australia, Frenchman Philippe Stark spans both the Post-Modern and Minimalist schools. In contrast with the global trend towards "branding" the products of each firm and downplaying personalities, Italian companies continue to emphasise the role of the individual designer, which may explain why so many designers are eager to work in Italy.

Compared with the pioneers, some of the latest designs may seem unconvincing. But others, the kitchens designed by Citterio for Arclinea immediately spring to mind, are beautiful and of stunning simplicity. Alongside this new generation of products, the best of those drawn by the pioneering architect-designers continue to be produced as "classics".

The names of Castiglioni, Magistretti, Ponti live on and are as well-known today as they were 30 years ago. In fact, original examples of their products, "first editions", are rapidly acquiring value as highly prized collector's items.



A parade of doll-like corkscrews designed by Alessandro Mendini



Italian inspiration: a visitor admires the sculpture of Paolina by Canova in the restored Villa Borghese Museum in Rome

Polishing the treasures

Given the choice of any ministry he wanted after the historic 1996 elections, Italy's new left-wing Deputy Prime Minister Walter Veltroni amazed everyone by claiming the Culture portfolio.

But Signor Veltroni, a leading member of the ex-Communist Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) and a former Editor of *L'Unita*, had realised that many of his predecessors had undervalued — the high-profile potential of a sector of growing economic and political importance.

Culture is a sector dogged by a legacy of neglect, boredom, inept management and a disastrous lack of funding. Culture might be the first thing that comes into foreigners' minds when they plan their trip to Italy, but heritage

CULTURE

and the arts do not top the domestic list of priorities. The main problem is there is just too much — Italy has more than 100,000 historic churches, 3,500 museums, 2,100 archeological sites and 4,000 historic gardens.

Two years ago, when 60 of the most important Italian monuments were surveyed, only two — the cathedrals at Siena and Salerno — were found to be in good shape. The Colosseum, St Mark's Square, the Roman Arena at Verona and Florence's Ponte Vecchio were all on the at-risk list.

One of the obvious solutions, private sponsorship, has been slow to take off. Despite generous funding from the Banco di Roma, the Colosseum remains shrouded in scaffolding and will not be ready for the millennium.

Even the appointment of a Pompeii "city manager" failed to encourage more than a small number of businesses to sponsor restoration of individual houses. But the private sector has its foot in the door. For the first time, museums are permitted in-house coffee shops, restaurants and bookshops.

In two years there has been little short of a revolution in the world of Italy's museums.

CULTURE

Signor Veltroni threw open the doors of museums long shut. Rome's Villa Borghese had been closed for 13 years since a ceiling fell down. Palazzo Altemps, acquired by the State to house the Ludovisi collection of classical sculpture, was in its fifteenth year of restoration. By setting a programme of specific opening dates, Signor Veltroni has proved that inertia can be reversed.

Italy's museums now have

ing Italians aware of the extraordinary wealth of their heritage, and sensitive to the heavy responsibilities the custody of these treasures entails.

Popular imagination was struck, however, by the discovery of a fine Roman bronze statue of the Sicilian coast when fishermen brought up a 2nd-century Satyr with their catch. Signor Veltroni has persuaded the Navy to lend minesweepers to locate other wrecks in the classical shipping lanes around Italy.

The minister is also an ardent film fan and presided over Italy's triumph at the Cannes Film Festival when Roberto Benigni's *La Vita e Bella*, an oddball comedy set in Auschwitz, won the Grand Jury Prize. He has also instigated cut-price cinema seats in the afternoons to boost audiences, and has recently announced a series of screenings of classic films by the great masters — De Sica, Visconti, Fellini and Pasolini, as well as Hitchcock and John Huston.

Football is the other thing Italy probably does best — and Signor Veltroni is Minister for Sport. For the first time there are signs of cross-fertilisation, with plans for opera seasons and pop concerts held in the impressive 1960 Rome Olympic Stadium.

The main problem that Signor Veltroni faces is making



Vice-Premier Veltroni meets Tony Blair

Slaking a world thirst

WINE

Italy is the world's largest wine exporter, selling about 15 million hectolitres abroad each year, *Cristina Gonzalez writes*. But some of the best wines are perhaps not as well-known in Britain as they deserve.

Over the past decade the more expensive wines suitable for ageing have been very successful, particularly on the international market," says Daniele Cerilli, a wine specialist and deputy director of Italian food and wine magazine *Il Gambero Rosso*.

These, he says, include full-bodied wines such as Barolo and Barbaresco from Piedmont and Brunello di Montalcino from Tuscany, Amarone di Valpolicella, a red wine produced in the Veneto region, from slightly over-ripe grapes and which therefore has a strong alcohol content, has also been doing very well abroad.

Italy produces some great red wines. Most of them come from central or southern Italy, where the Mediterranean climate favours reds rather than whites, he says. "But there are some good whites, such as Greco di Tufo from the Campania region around Naples, produced from grape varieties that were originally introduced by the Ancient Greeks." Other successful whites include Corvo, from Sicily, and Fontanafredda, from the Alghero hills near Rome. For reds, Signor Cerilli recommends Brunello, Barolo, and Barbaresco from 1995 and 1996, years to be snapped up as soon as they become available.

If your head is reeling after the wine, relief is at hand from the 242 different types of mineral water produced in Italy. Italians are the world's largest consumers of mineral water, quaffing 116 litres per head each year, and leading an industry worth £1.4 billion.

Perhaps appropriately, the Welsh mineral water company TYNANT, which has achieved astonishing success in marketing its blueglass bottles of spring water, has been managed in recent years by an Italian, Pietro Elisabetta, from Genoa. The company last year opened a new bottling plant, increasing its capacity to 50 million bottles a year.

"We're expanding all the time," says Nicole Saebold, the sales and marketing co-ordinator for the company. "The bottles are very eye-catching, but the water has to be of good quality to keep the customers."

JULIA CROSSE

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Monday 5/10			
Wednesday 6/10	Training		
Wednesday 7/10	Int. Qualifier		
Thursday 8/10	Roma Event		
Friday 9/10			
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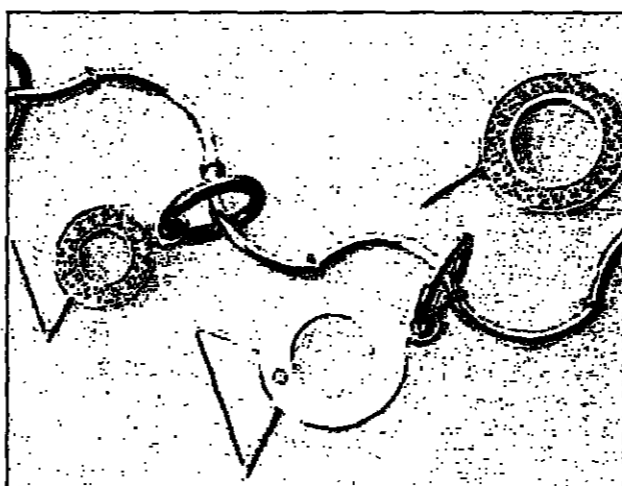
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JEWELLERY

Gold charms help raise funds for children's charity



Gold charms for children designed by Giulio Manfredi

THE FASHION jeweller Giulio Manfredi is donating 10 per cent of the price of his series of charms for children to the Italian Committee of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), *John Phillips writes*. The charms were designed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations.

Made of 18-carat white and yellow gold, the charms are in the shape of a symbol of childhood: a circle resting on a pyramid. They range in price from 80,000 lire (£28) to 1,900,000 lire (£678). "I like thinking of children in a field of flowers, not in a hospital or on the street," Signor Manfredi says. "But I live in the reality, my eyes are open and helping children means helping the world."

joined in the initiative, allowing customers to order the charms from its 300 branches around Italy. "People will have the double satisfaction of doing good and getting a prestigious acquisition," Signor Manfredi says. The charms also are being marketed in the United States, where 10 per cent of the price will also go to Unicef.

Isabella Rossellini and Hillary Clinton are among the women who are wearing the charms "to promote their sales", says Signor Manfredi's office. A booklet accompanying the jewellery includes a poem by Signor Manfredi: "In the eyes of a child you see all the colours of a new day, the flowers and trees of the garden, the pure light of the sun, the snow and the mountains... In the thoughts of a child live dreams, the Universe."

True blue

TYNANT

Welsh Water

EXPIRES 15/10

John Phillips examines Italy's economy and, right, looks at successful external investment in the disadvantaged deep South

Feelgood factor is expected to boost recovery

ECONOMY

Italy's admission to the European economic and monetary union (EMU) is expected to have a significant "feelgood" impact on the economy as business confidence is bolstered by the knowledge that the country will not be left behind in the "second division" of European competitors.

But the main economic challenge to the Government of Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, is to realise the centre-left coalition's electoral promise to reduce unemployment, particularly the sky-high jobless rates in the mezzogiorno, Italy's disadvantaged deep South.

The Government has promised Rifondazione Comunista, its left-wing ally, that it will introduce a 35-hour week to boost employment. But observers believe such a measure would only exacerbate inflexibility in the labour market.

The Italian economy is expected to perform solidly this year, although the impact of the crisis in the Far Eastern markets has hurt Italian exporters in such sensitive areas as the fashion and machine-tool industries.

Lorenzo Stanca, the head of research at the Credito Italiano bank in Milan, predicts that GDP will grow between 2.2 and 2.3 per cent this year. That would be a respectable increase compared with the growth rate of 1.5 per cent achieved last year, but falls short of the high expectations at the start of this year.

"Our perception is less optimistic than that of many observers who at the start of the year were expecting GDP to rise by 2.8 to 3 per cent," he says. "But entry into EMU is certainly important. There has been an important adjustment of public accounts."

"Admission to EMU will have very little impact on the economy in 1998. But in the next five years it will serve to take us back to the centre stage of economic policy in Europe after we had practically slipped back to the level of North Africa."

Domestic demand recovered significantly last year, growing by about 2 per cent after the Government introduced car-purchase incentives that led to a huge surge in

IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

EMU will serve to take us back to the centre stage of economic policy in Europe*

EMU will serve to take us back to the centre stage of economic policy in Europe after we had practically slipped back to the level of North Africa.

Domestic demand recovered significantly last year, growing by about 2 per cent after the Government introduced car-purchase incentives that led to a huge surge in

ENERGY

80 countries now stretches to China, Croatia and Kazakhstan as well as its traditional power bases in West and North Africa and Italy itself.

Such success inevitably creates jealousy and some commentators have described the softly-spoken but tough Signor Bernabè as a "new Mattei" promoting a thinly-veiled brand of economic nationalism.

Earlier this year he was criticised when he called publicly for what he saw as the need to end sanctions against Libya, Iran and Iraq. Some foreign observers linked his statement to efforts by Italy to increase its sphere of influence in those oil-producing countries.

ENI is the largest foreign producer in Libya. The company has been negotiating for some time with the Libyan National Oil Company to conclude agreements for the sale of natural gas that is to be sent to Italian consumers through an underwater pipeline to be built between Libya and Italy. Production is scheduled to start in 2002.

Signor Bernabè's remarks coincided with a visit to Iran by Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, who in Tehran exonerated the Iranian Government of any further links to international terrorism. ENI also has a pending production sharing deal in Iraq.

Signor Bernabè insisted

that he was acting on his own initiative as an oil man and said sanctions were harmful for long-term relations of the West with those countries since their oil production was declining.

Whatever the case, Italian pundits have seen the Clinton Administration's decision to ease sanctions as a vindication of Signor Bernabè's policies. His credibility has been boosted also by his undertaking a reorganisation of ENI's six major operating units.

In the first main move last year the exploration and production subsidiary AGIP was merged into ENI itself. This was part of Signor Bernabè's policy of growing internationally mainly through expanded exploration and production.

In one of its most surprising operations, ENI managers are mulling over how to deal with huge reserves discovered in the Basilicata region of southern Italy.

The oilfields under 30 villages of the Val d'Agri, the upper part of a river valley running into the Italian inland, are believed to be one of the biggest oilfields discovered anywhere in the world in the past five years.

The discovery has excited the regional government of Basilicata, which wants ENI and its partners, including the British firm Enterprise Oil, to create 3,000 new jobs.

However, the days when politicians called the shots at ENI now are officially over. About 1,000 jobs are expected to be created for three years as wells are drilled, an oil-collection centre built and a pipeline laid to a refinery at the port of Taranto. Thereafter the number of jobs extracting oil in Basilicata could dwindle to as few as 150.



Carlo Azeglio Ciampi: the Treasury Minister introduced a huge fiscal squeeze last year



Volunteers dig for survivors at Sarno, one of the towns worst hit by recent mudslides

South offers enterprise opportunities

INVESTMENT

Several impressive examples of successful external investment in the south of Italy — the mezzogiorno — are showing the way to the Italian entrepreneurs who Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, is convinced can be persuaded to take advantage of its low labour costs.

Among the pioneering investors is BAA (formerly the British Airports Authority), which has a 70 per cent holding in the Capodichino international airport at Naples.

The dramatic images of the disastrous mudslides in which hundreds of people died this spring underlined the parlous state of development and infrastructure in much of the Italian south. In Naples, there have been violent clashes in recent weeks between the police and groups of the long-term unemployed. The jobless make up 25.5 per cent of the workforce in the region.

More investment in the South from the North and abroad is needed urgently to heal the ills of Campania.

South. The Government is to bolster 40 special areas through tax reductions and union pledges to reduce wage costs. Government economists have compared development Italy to the Welsh Development Agency and hope that it will stem the flow of Italian companies moving to new operations in Wales and Ireland.

How much northern capital flows to the South also depends on eradicating organised crime. The presence of the Mafia inevitably deters investors who fear paying additional costs to protection rackets.

Neapolitan newspapers recently reported the curious case of Raffaele Colombino, a left-wing businessman at Pomigliano D'Arco near Naples, who put his engineering company up for sale out of frustration with criminal threats and bureaucracy, and issued an angry open letter to the head of the National Trade Union Federation.

"I asked Comrade Cofferati how I was to behave with a worker I wanted to dismiss who was the black sheep of the firm or another who threatened to kill me. The reply was 'Comrade Raffaele, wait, you cannot ruin their families.'"

Excitatives at Fiat, Italy's largest private company, are proud of their car-producing plant at Melfi, which they opened four years ago. Some 8,500 people now work there in the construction of Fiat Puntos and the Lancia Y and in 20 subsidiary supplying companies. The plant generates 1,400 cars a day.

Other growth areas are the furniture firms that are springing up in Apulia and Basilicata and the food-processing companies producing tinned tomatoes in and around the ancient university town of Salerno.

Signor Prodi has promised to set up a special round-table convention between employers, unions, government representatives and the mayors of big southern cities to discuss tackling unemployment. Mayors such as Antonio Bassolino of Naples are in the forefront of demands that Rome take more notice of the South lest there be violent social unrest.

The Mafia inevitably deters investors

The employers' federation, Confindustria, blames rigid national trade union contracts for the reluctance of many members to put money into the South. But there is growing evidence that such contracts are not adhered to in much of the mezzogiorno and Signor Prodi says unit labour costs there are the lowest in Europe, with the exception of Spain.

Another example of successful investment can be found at the industrial maritime complex at Gai Taurò. Once derided as an example of wasteful state investment in Calabria, Gai Taurò has now become the leading container port for the Mediterranean.

Then there is the ambitious 2,000 billion-lire scheme to transform the former Italsider steelworks complex at Bagnoli on the Bay of Naples into a tourist and hotel complex to take advantage of the magnificent views of Vesuvius and the island of Capri.

Murky waters clear to reveal great profits

In a remarkable turnaround under the guidance of its new chief executive, Franco Bernabè, Italy's giant energy concern ENI has become the world's fifth most profitable publicly listed oil company after Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon, British Petroleum and Mobil.

Nearly half of ENI has been sold off in one of Italy's most successful privatisation programmes and another tranche soon will be offered to the public.

The company's current success recalls that of its early years when its founder, Enrico Mattei, became an Italian national hero by taking on Anglo-Saxon rivals, including the American oil majors he dubbed the Seven Sisters, and negotiating pioneering contracts with Russia, Libya and Iran. In 1962, however, Mattei died in a mysterious air crash which Italian prosecutors now say was sabotage, perhaps carried out by the Cosa Nostra.

For three decades after his death, the company never fully recovered a comparable sense of direction. By 1993 its image as a mismanaged, loss-making and corrupt public enterprise reached its lowest ebb when the former chairman, Gabriele Cagliari, committed suicide by suffocating himself with a plastic bag in prison after being arrested on charges of paying huge bribes to the Socialist Party.

Dozens of corrupt executives were removed from the corporation in the early Nineties by Milan's Clean Hands team of anti-bribery investigators and Bernabè, 49, a former OECD economist, followed this up with a purge of his own after his appointment in 1992 by the then Prime Minister, Giuliano Amato.

ENI's far-flung empire in

John Phillips on the man behind ENI's remarkable turnaround

ENERGY

that he was acting on his own initiative as an oil man and said sanctions were harmful for long-term relations of the West with those countries since their oil production was declining.

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NEWS

M15 agent barred from Diana show

The Attorney-General has stepped into the dispute over tonight's documentary about Diana, Princess of Wales, by telling broadcasters that they may not include contributions from David Shayler, a former M15 officer.

Dorrell leads Left assault on Hague

Stephen Dorrell, the former minister who quit the Shadow Cabinet on Monday, yesterday put himself at the forefront of the Tory Left's challenge to William Hague over a European single currency.

Short's shrift

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, will today accuse the Red Cross of launching pointless fundraising appeals which cause unnecessary alarm.

'No opera here'

London's newest theatre is a dancer's paradise. It has a gym and fitness centre, three rehearsal studios and a jacuzzi. What the rebuilt Sadler's Wells does not have, its promoters say, are facilities for grand opera.

Divorcee jailed

A British divorcee who hired two night club bouncers to murder her lover and business partner on Tenerife was yesterday sentenced to 27 years in a Spanish prison.

Ingham 'conspiracy'

Sir Bernard Ingham, former press secretary to Margaret Thatcher, has accused government spin-doctors a conspiracy to destroy his reputation.

Lottery profits rise

Camelot, the lottery organisers, unveiled large pay rises for its directors and record profits of £80.9 million yesterday. After-tax profits were up 16 per cent at £54.2 million.

Air strike fear

Pakistan feared an Israeli air strike on its nuclear installations hours before it detonated the first of its six atomic tests last week.

Moore's medals

English football is preparing to raise £2.2 million to buy the medals of Bobby Moore, England's 1966 World Cup winning captain, from his former wife.

Gucci trial claim

The trial for murder of the former wife of Maurizio Gucci, the fashion empire heir, came alive when an alleged hitman said that she ordered the killing.

Flood warning rebuke

The Environment Agency made serious mistakes in the way it responded to severe flooding in mid-Wales and central and eastern England over Easter, an independent report says.

US envoy vacancy

The US Embassy in Ireland might remain empty for some time after the departure of Jean Kennedy Smith. President Clinton is taking a personal interest in the new appointment.

Failing schools threat

Up to 25 inadequate schools could be closed under tough measures announced by the Government yesterday.

Quake wilderness

For three days Koi village awaited help after the earthquake in Afghanistan. It came yesterday, meagrely and quickly.

How a good book saved my life

A set of religious books saved the life of a church aid worker shot during a gun attack on a shop in the Philippines. A bullet came to rest in the Book of Mormon after passing through four other volumes being carried in a backpack by Andrew Douglas-Dixon.



The Bee Gees — Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb — unveiling plans for a world tour and their first UK concert in 10 years yesterday

SPORT

Setback for Siebe: Siebe is to cut 4,000 jobs in Europe in a £100 million restructuring. The news, along with disappointing figures, knocked £700 million off the engineering group's value.

Tennis: Marcelo Rios, tournament favourite, lost his French Open quarter-final match against Carlos Moya. Martina Hingis defeated Venus Williams.

Football: Romário, enfant terrible, of Brazilian football, has been omitted from his country's World Cup squad for lack of fitness.

Rugby union: Fran Cotton is to be investigated by the Rugby Football Union allegedly for bringing the game into disrepute with his comments in the dispute between the clubs and union.

Life disclosure: Sun Life of Canada, the mutual insurer that plans to float next year, filed an incorrect return to the Department of Trade and Industry in Britain for 1995, the year in which one of its senior executives lied in court.

Indonesian woe: The Indonesian economy is expected to contract by 10.1 per cent this year.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 4.4 to 5,842.3. The pound rose .03 cents to \$1.6376 and .22 pfmign to DM2.9174.

Triathlon: Britain's team for the Olympic Games may be dominated by Australian accents after four competitors with British connections switched allegiance.

Home help: The court decision that should protect people who use property search firms to find a home.

Rest easy: How to rent space in a mausoleum.

Simon Jenkins: There is an odd story doing the rounds, that Tony Blair is not quite what he seems. Each night he sneaks up to the Downing Street attic, takes out a wig and a handbag and kneels in contemplation before a little wax lady.

Alan Coren: My fingers, this morning, tremble as they type. Today's may well be their final job. My fingers may be facing a future of solitude, crochet, and running down situations vacant columns.

Anthony Barnett: Inspired by the inventiveness of classical Athens, a colleague and I have proposed a representative Upper House selected by lot like a jury (while retaining some appointed 'People's Peers').

Professor Alan Milne, political philosopher; Philip O'Connor, writer; Mr Justice Michael Kempster, Hong Kong appeal court judge.

Athenian solution to Lords reform: Islamic doctrine; Palestinian Christians; redundant barns; Donald Wise tribute; Princess Diana memorial; Australian wines; Severn bridge; men's toiletries.

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,808

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 27 indicating starting points for words.

- ACROSS
1 Senile and repetitive state (4).
2 Witchcraft? (10).
9 How Beethoven finished a set of four notes (4).
10 A novel school of thought (10).
12 The person who should get the named post (9).
13 Departs before spring to lodge (5).
14 Out of sight, out of mind (5,3,4).
18 A well-intentioned investigator? (5,7).
21 Primate's ring sounded metallic (5).
22 Confused, lost again in thoughts of the old days (9).
24 Official in Foreign Office about to divulge secrets (10).
25 Thin type with very small diameter (4).

A solution to a puzzle, showing a grid of letters and words like 'ALICESPRINGS', 'BEERSHEBA', 'RETINA', 'STEALTHY', 'PACIFIST', 'SHOKER', 'OSAKA', 'UPPERHAND', 'ACTIONREPLAY'.

- DOWN
26 Certificate old boy lost? That's all right (7-3).
27 City requiring an appropriate level of inflation (4).
DOWN
1 Dogs race wildly round the churchyard (4,4).
2 Magnificence of reconstructed garden city of antiquity (9).
4 Rocks and rolls in lively dances (5).
5 Native reserve? (6-3).
6 European bringing about five crazy Canadians in (12).
7 I'm about to stay in the same place (6).
8 Light linked to switch (6).
11 Finished speech in Latin, perhaps (4,3).
15 Loud racket that may lead to some apprehension (3,3,3).
16 A spot of comfort for the local visitor (8).
17 I'd turned up in a sort of orange fabric (8).
19 Globe covered with firm ice (6).
20 Just some of a brick structure (9).
23 Largely unstable old military headgear (5).

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Sun rises: 4.48 am Sun sets: 9.10 pm
Moon sets: 2.10 am Moon rises: 12.02 pm
Full moon June 10
London 6.10 pm to 4.47 am
Bristol 9.20 pm to 4.57 am
Edinburgh 8.49 pm to 4.23 am
Manchester 9.30 pm to 4.44 am
Perthshire 9.25 pm to 4.16 am

General: much of England and Wales will have sunny spells and showers, some of the showers prolonged in central and eastern parts this afternoon. Northern Ireland, N Ireland, Wales mostly cloudy with some heavy rain.

Scotland: cool, with showers mainly confined to the mountains; cloudy towards North Sea, but western areas sunnier. N Ireland fairly bright but showers later.

London, SE England, E Angles: some sunshine but heavy showers by afternoon, esp inland. Mod SW wind, Max 19C (66F).

Midlands, S Wales: bright spells and showers, some heavy or prolonged later. Moderate SW wind, Max 17C (63F).

E, NW, Cent N, NE England, N Wales, Lakes: cool and cloudy with spells of rain, some heavy at first, but more showery later. Light north to NE wind. Max 14C (57F).

North Sea, SW England, Channel: sunny spells this morning, but showers will develop by afternoon, locally heavy. Moderate SW breeze, Max 18C (64F).

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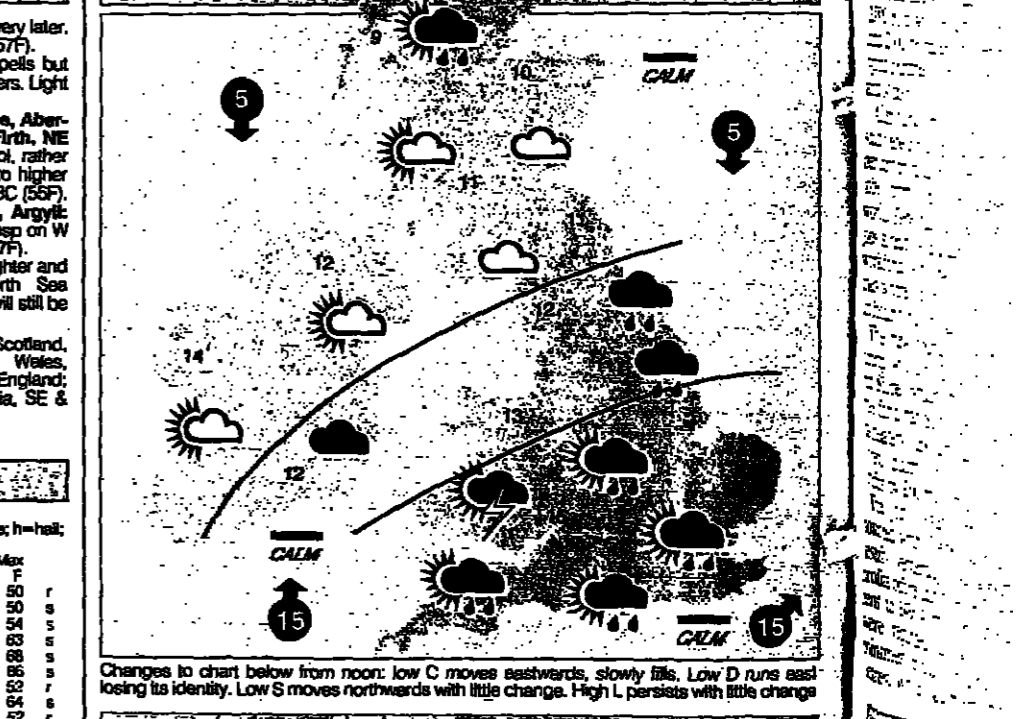
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Changes to chart below from noon: Low C moves eastwards, slowly. High L runs east losing its identity. Low S moves northwards with little change. High L persists with little change.

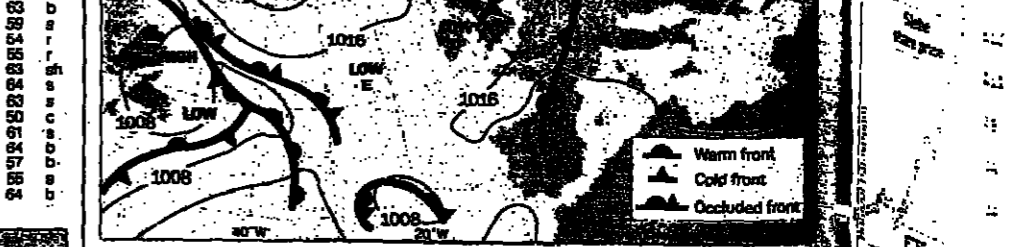


Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT. Lists weather conditions for various UK locations.

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Hemsby, Norfolk, 20C (68F); lowest day temp: Eskdalemuir, Dumfriesshire, 9C (48F); highest rainfall: Birmingham, 1.6in; highest sunshine: Larkhall, Shetland, 14.5h.

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THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY



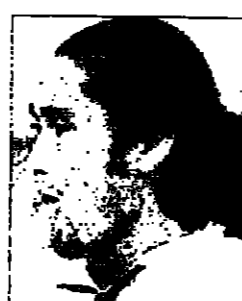
BUSINESS

Fashion producers face risk of falling apart at the seams PAGE 31



ARTS

Why Robert Duvall put his money where his movie is PAGES 40-42



SPORT

Rios down and out in Paris PAGES 44-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 1998

Sun Life of Canada filed incorrect DTI return

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

SUN LIFE of Canada, the mutual insurer that plans to float next year, filed an incorrect return with the Department of Trade and Industry in Britain for 1995, the same year one of its senior executives lied in a Canadian court.

In notes to its 1996 returns, which the insurer filed with the DTI last September, it admitted to having understated its liabilities in the previous year by £124.4 million. In

order to correct this, it recorded a £30.5 million fall in the value of its non-linked assets in 1996, although they had actually increased by £93.9 million.

Donald Stewart, chief executive, who was chief actuary in 1995, has now said the 1995 year was the first the company had used British accounting standards. In the process it had "misclassified" a bank loan connected with its acquisition of the UK subsidiary of Confederation Life, the rival Canadian insurer.

Mr Stewart denied there was any connec-

tion with the case of Robert Sharkey, the insurer's chief actuary, who resigned last month after a judge in Ontario ruled that he had given fraudulent evidence in a test case three years ago.

Mr Sharkey, vice-president of investments at the time, testified that mortgages held in three of the insurer's funds were long-term to match liabilities to policyholders. However, about £267 million (£264 million) of £31.28 billion were subsequently found to be of under ten years' maturity.

Mr Stewart denied the company ever had a "mismatch" between assets and liabilities in any of its markets. "This is a very strongly capitalised company," he said.

However, the company could be forced to part with more of this capital than it would like if the controversy over Mr Sharkey gathers pace.

The disclosure threatens to undermine its attempts to settle with 400,000 policyholders over the "vanishing premium" affair. The company has offered a £50 million

settlement to investors who were sold policies on the basis that they would only have to pay premiums for a short while. When stock market conditions prevented this investors launched class actions in Canada and the US.

SLOC had hoped to get its offer approved in the Ontario High Court on Friday. However, a rebel group of policyholders argued that the offer should be re-examined. One source said the final settlement could end up being ten times its current offer.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES	
FTSE 100	5842.3 (+4.4)
Yield	4.12
FTSE All share	2796.99 (+1.54)
Nikkei	15554.45 (+233.42)
Dow Jones	8894.46 (+23.91)
S&P Composite	1091.30 (+0.32)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5.4%)
Long Bond	104 3/8% (104.3%)
Yield	5.80% (5.78%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-mth interbank	7 1/8% (7.1%)
Life long gilt	110 (110.0)
future (Sept)	

STERLING	
New York	1.6385* (1.6405)
London	1.6373 (1.6372)
DM	2.9173 (2.9146)
FF	5.7792 (5.7727)
SFr	2.6250 (2.6182)
Yen	227.50 (228.58)
£ Index	104.0 (104.0)

DOLLAR	
London	1.7795* (1.7790)
FF	5.9690* (5.9645)
SFr	1.4787* (1.4783)
Yen	138.92* (139.65)
£ Index	111.6 (111.8)

Tokyo close Yen 138.17

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$14.55 (\$14.55)

GOLD	
London close	\$291.05 (\$288.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Thames deal

A £225 million contract to manage water supplies in Jakarta between Thames Water and the Indonesian Government has been renegotiated. Page 28

MEPC payout

MEPC has increased by a third the size of its planned payback to shareholders. The property company will return £400 million after rapid progress in the sale of its overseas assets. Page 29

Siebe cuts 4,000 jobs as part of a £100m shake-up

By ADAM JONES

SIEBE, one of the most successful companies of the 1990s, yesterday said it was cutting 4,000 jobs in Europe as part of a £100 million restructuring. The news, along with disappointing figures, led the City to knock £700 million off the engineering group's market value.

The cuts are part of a global efficiency drive that will see 4,000 jobs disappear in the US and Europe by the year 2000 — a tenth of those being in the UK. Siebe said yesterday that 2,000 posts will be abolished and 2,000 relocated to developing countries such as China and Mexico.

Allen Yurko, chief executive, said Siebe could save about 80 per cent on salaries by moving jobs from the developed world. Siebe has moved 1,400 jobs already — a quarter of its workforce — to low-cost countries where it costs less than £2 an hour for a typical worker.

The new round of restructuring will cost £100 million but Siebe, which makes controls for a range of items such as heaters, cookers and factories, claims it will boost profits by £60 million a year.

The job losses were announced with Siebe's annual results yesterday. Although profits before tax rose 14.7 per cent to £486.4 million, these were regarded as a disappointment in the City and the shares, which had risen from

94.5p last June, slumped from £15.03 to £13.60.

A wave of acquisitions in the past year, including APV, Coleman Safety & Security and Wonderware, ensured that overall sales rose 22.1 per cent to £3.67 billion. The acceptance deadline for Siebe's £423 million takeover of Eurotherm, the UK controls, drives and recorders group, has been extended to June 9.

Earnings per share rose 14.6 per cent to 62p and a final dividend of 16.2p (14.7p) will be paid. Plans for a bonus share issue that will effectively be a four-for-one share split will be put to investors.

Sir Colin Marshall, the outgoing president of the CBI, will become Siebe chairman later this month. He is currently deputy chairman, as well as being chairman of British Airways, chairman of Incheape and deputy chairman of British Telecom. Mr Yurko denied a suggestion that Sir Colin may be spreading himself too thinly, saying he would spend "enough" time attending to Siebe duties.

Mr Yurko also insisted that Siebe's dispute with Nemic-Lambda, a Japanese group in which it has a 50.6 per cent stake, was not a culture clash between East and West.

Rikithro Madarame, the founder and chairman of Nemic-Lambda, claims that Siebe is attempting to impose a Western-style hierarchical structure. Siebe says Mr Madarame faces an allegation of misconduct. Mr Yurko said Japanese nationals would continue to run the business if it won a battle to oust Mr Madarame and his supporters.

Siebe yesterday filed an application with the Tokyo district court for a temporary restraining order to block a capital restructuring proposed by Nemic-Lambda that would have diluted Siebe's stake to about 38.4 per cent, strengthening the rebels' hand.

Tempus, page 30



A GROUP of investors will today requisition an extraordinary general meeting to oust the management of Tandem Group, the long-making bicycle manufacturer, and turn it into a group owning and managing race-courses (Jason Nisbet writes).

Maurice Cowan, a solicitor from

Leeds, John Sanderson and Harry Turpin together hold 12.4 per cent of Tandem's shares. Today a notice will go out to Tandem's other shareholders calling a meeting before July 1.

The trio are proposing that they replace on the Tandem board Robin Bromley-Martin, the chief executive,

Keith Hamer and Govert Brasser, two non-executive directors.

Mr Cowan said yesterday the new strategy would be to sell Tandem's bicycle-making businesses — which have failed to ride the boom in mountain bikes. Instead, the company will manage and own racecourses in

the north of England. Mr Sanderson, who used to run York racecourse, intends to inject his business, which runs Doncaster, pictured above, Redcar and Caterick and to buy other courses.

Tandem's board was meeting last night and unavailable for comment.

Vickers tries to drive off R-R owners

By ADAM JONES

VICKERS tried to shut the door on an eleven-hour bid for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars by a consortium of owners yesterday by warning shareholders that a new offer at this stage could delay the sale completion until September or October.

Michael Shrimpton, a barrister acting as spokesman for the owners, said yesterday they were putting the final touches to an offer, despite the hurdle of not having been able to do proper due diligence. He claimed an unconditional offer could be in by Thursday. Vickers shareholders vote on the £430 million Volkswagen bid and the £340 million BMW offers on Friday.

Vickers said such a move would mean resubmitting a capital restructuring plan through the legal system, risking delays because of the summer recess.

IMF to resume rescue package for Indonesia

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE International Monetary Fund said yesterday it hopes to resume rescue payments to Indonesia in the next few weeks as the country's government unveiled for the first time the full extent of the damage wreaked by the recent economic and political turmoil.

The Indonesian Government forecast unemployment will rise towards 15 million by the end of year, around 17 per cent of the country's total workforce. It also predicted that the economy was set to contract by 10.1 per cent this year while inflation will reach 85 per cent. In the first quarter of this year, GDP declined by 6.2 per cent.

The crisis claimed one of its first big corporate victims yesterday when Sempati, the Indonesian airline, suspended all operations and Govern-

ment sources predicted it would be wound up by the weekend. Sempati is part-owned by the former president Suharto's youngest son.

The new Government has promised to step up its investigation into Suharto family assets. The Indonesian Justice Minister said family members would be banned from travelling abroad during the inquiry. The rupiah fell to 11,700 compared with 11,450 in early trade. The Jakarta stock market fell 3.5 per cent to 399.6.

The troubled markets in Russia, however, regained ground as speculation grew that the G7 group of nations is preparing more financial aid. The Moscow stock exchange closed up 12.5 per cent, reversing Monday's losses.

Water contract, page 28

Prescott funds for Channel link close

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, is hoping to announce today that he has agreed to plough hundreds of millions of pounds of government money into a Railtrack-sponsored bailout of the Channel Tunnel rail link (Carl Morfished writes).

The deal is set to cause a political storm as more taxpayers' money is ploughed into a £5.4 billion project, viewed by many as a white elephant. The sponsor of the rail link, London & Continental Railways, originally demanded an extra £1.2 billion subsidy, on top of the £1.8 billion government investment in the project.

Railtrack will agree to buy the first

phase of the project, a rail link from the Channel Tunnel to Ebbsfleet in Kent, while retaining an option on the second and more difficult phase across the Thames and into Central London.

The project has accumulated some £400 million in debt, of which £260 million relates to the losses of Eurostar, the train operator. The future of the Eurostar service poses another dilemma for the Government. A consortium led by British Airways and National Express is competing for the service with Virgin Rail. Granting the former bidder the franchise would present severe competition issues over transport to Paris and Brussels.

Booker slumps 15% after third warning

SHARES of Booker plunged by 15 per cent yesterday after the salmon-to-whodunnits company issued its third profits warning since January and placed three of its five divisions on the auction block (Fraser Nelson and Sarah Cunningham write).

Jonathan Taylor, who took over as chief executive in March after the resignation of Charles Bowen, said the company has decided on a complete break-up in the hope of reviving the shares.

He added that, in recent months, business at its core cash-and-carry shops has slowed after further problems in bedding down Nurdin &

Peacock — which it bought 18 months ago.

The shares dropped 44p to 248 1/2p yesterday, even though Mr Taylor said the company has had tentative take-over approaches for every one of its divisions.

It is already in talks to sell its 64 per cent stake in the copyright to Agatha Christie works, although it will continue to sponsor the Booker Prize. Its two agribusiness divisions will follow, and its salmon processing arm will be sold once it has returned to financial health.

Mr Taylor, 63, said he will stand down as acting chairman when a new chief executive has been found.

The buyer, Nikko Europe, saw off competition from more than 30 rivals

Nikko won an aggressive auction

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National Grid hopes for £1bn US expansion

**BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NATIONAL GRID, which runs the country's electricity transmission network, may soon spend more than £1 billion on a US operation. The business, which has gearing of 165 per cent, has joined the growing band of UK power companies scouting the US market and has held initial talks with a number of companies. It hopes to buy into one that would give it distribution experience as well as transmission.

David Jones, the chief executive, said the company would hope to leverage a purchase on the costs it could cut from a new business. Faced with limited opportunities to expand in its domestic market, National Grid is expanding its overseas interests although that division contributed only £10 million of profits last year out of a pre-tax total, before exceptional, of £467.7 million. That figure had fallen from £591.4 million in the previous year on the impact of a new pricing regime. However, the company saw its share

price jump 15p to 387p after analysts warmed to the unexpected cost reductions. National Grid has lowered its transmission controllable costs by 14 per cent. Last year it also benefited from a one-off profit of £107 million from its sale of a minority stake in Energis, the telecommunications operation. The company has held talks recently with the Government ahead of the publication of the energy review which aims to secure a market for UK coal. Six months ago when the Prime

Minister opened the review amid a crisis in the coal industry he said the Government was responding to concerns from National Grid. Mr Jones said: "I don't believe that that was the cause of the review. It was a useful thing to refer to." He said the review must deliver a mixture of generating fuels to ensure stability of the system. National Grid's earnings per share, adjusted to exclude the Energis gain, fell from 24.3p to 19.8p. The total dividend was lifted 8.4 per cent to 12.07p with the final payment of 7.24p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Filofax shares slide as talks are called off

FILOFAX disappointed the market yesterday by revealing that talks that could have led to the sale of the company have been called off. Robin Field, chief executive, said that none of the companies with which he had discussed alliances or take-over had been willing to pay a premium. Filofax's shares slid from 179p to 161½p. The company reported that pre-tax profit rose 7 per cent in the year to March 31, to £6.1 million. Turnover was marginally lower at £57.7 million. Earnings per share were 14.5 per cent ahead at 15p. The company will pay a final dividend of 2.42p (2.2p), giving a total of 4.07p (3.7p). David Collinson, the current non-executive chairman, is to retire but stay on as a non-executive director. Mr Field will step up to be executive chairman, while Chris Braze, current finance director and company secretary, will become managing director.

Tesco to offer pensions

TESCO has become the first supermarket to launch a personal pension plan as part of an effort to expand in financial services. The pension is being launched through a joint venture with Scottish Widows. David Graham, Tesco's personal finance chief executive, said the plan was a simply designed product that aimed to appeal to shoppers who were "unfamiliar and uncomfortable buying financial products". The pension will initially be marketed in 20 stores before being launched nationally in the autumn.

Alstom value tops £4bn

ALSTOM, the power and transportation group formerly known as GEC Alstom, will be valued at £4.1 billion to £4.7 billion when it floats this month. The indicative price range for the shares being floated will be Fr190 to Fr220 (£19.50 to £22.50), Alstom said yesterday. The shares will be traded in Paris, New York and London from June 22. GEC owns Alstom with Alcatel Alstom of France. The pair are floating 52 per cent of the venture. Although the stock is not on public offer, qualifying GEC shareholders will be able to apply for up to £1,000 of shares.

Confident Apollo up 36%

APOLLO METALS, the engineering group, raised pre-tax profits by 36 per cent to £2.6 million in the six months to March 31 on sales up 18 per cent to £42 million. Earnings rose 43 per cent to 5.7p out of which the half-year dividend rises 10 per cent to 1.6p. The shares remained unchanged at 121½p. Albert Hargreaves, chairman, said: "Demand is continuing to grow, we are penetrating new markets and operationally we are becoming more efficient. I expect, therefore, to see further progress in the second half of the year."

Greencore profits surge

GREENCORE, the Irish food producer, raised pre-tax profits by 17 per cent to Ir£25.4 million (£22 million) on sales up by 23 per cent to Ir£265 million in the six months to March 27. Earnings rose 18 per cent to 1r11.1p out of which the interim dividend rises 10 per cent to 1r2.85p. David Dilger, chief executive, said: "The recent acquisitions of Kears and Pauls Malt represent important strategic moves for the group." He added that cost savings from Pauls and synergies in its malt division "will contribute to the enhancement of profitability".

Clear lifts More stake

CLEAR CHANNEL, the American firm bidding £475 million for More Group, the British billboard advertiser, has nearly doubled the size of its shareholding in the UK company after buying stock in the market. Clear Channel raised its stake to 29.9 per cent from 17 per cent. It also has acceptances for its £11.10 a share bid for 5 per cent, leaving it in a commanding position to win control of More in spite of competition from the Decaux, the French group, whose higher bid of £12.20 is subject to a monopolies investigation.

Supply deal for Ushers

USHERS of Trowbridge, the regional brewer based in Wiltshire, has signed a ten-year agreement to supply Löwenbräu beers from next month. Ushers, which replaces Allied Domecq as Löwenbräu's distributor in the UK, will brew and package both Premium Bier and Pils and also import packaged beers such as Oktoberfest. The agreement was announced as Ushers reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £6.1 million (£3.6 million) in the six months to April 30. Adjusted earnings rose 11.6 per cent to 4.8p a share. The interim dividend rises 10 per cent to 1.45p.

Wolseley expands in US

WOLSELEY, the builders' merchant, has made three acquisitions of American distribution businesses for \$111 million (£68 million). Tozour Energy, in Pennsylvania; Stock Lumber in Wisconsin and Minnesota; and Forward Enterprises of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan are expected to contribute annual sales of \$216 million. Wolseley shares fell 5p to 418p yesterday. The audited accounts of Stock Lumber for the year ended December 31, 1997, showed sales of \$174.8 million and pre-tax profit of \$15.8 million.

Morrison advances

MORRISON CONSTRUCTION GROUP lifted pre-tax profits 28 per cent to £20.8 million in the year to March 31. Earnings rose 27 per cent to 20.27p a share. There is a final dividend of 4.05p a share, lifting the total 13.8 per cent to 5.85p. The company said it entered the current financial year with a record workload. Regional operations are being expanded and the company said it was well-placed to consider acquisitions. The shares rose 6½p to 387½p yesterday.

Smart card launched by Visa

Visa International, the payment-systems group, yesterday launched a smart card that will replace cash as well as separate credit, debit, loyalty and store cards. The card looks like a plastic bank card but has an embedded microchip that allows consumers to charge their credit accounts, make payments from their bank and collect store loyalty points. Edmund Jensen, Visa International president, said: "This is like a bank in your pocket."

Xerox jobs

About 2,000 jobs are to be created in the Irish Republic by Xerox. The American fax machine to software company is setting up its European headquarters in Dublin, with additional facilities in Dundalk, Co Louth. The investment will include a manufacturing plant and a tele-service facility.

Times award

Marianne Curphey, the deputy personal finance editor of *The Times*, was yesterday named Consumer Pension and Investment Journalist of the Year. The £1,300 award — sponsored by Aon Consulting — was presented at the House of



Curphey: award winner

Commons by John Denham, MP, the pensions minister.

Bookings up

Eurocamp, the camping and mobile home holiday group, said bookings are 5 per cent ahead of last year despite a slow February and March. The company reported a pre-tax loss of £4.3 million in the six months to March 31, from £4.7 million last time.

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.75	2.58
Austria Sch	21.52	18.86
Belgium Fr	65.28	68.42
Canada Cdn	2.508	2.318
Cyprus Cyp£	0.801	0.880
Denmark Kr	11.70	10.8
Finland Mk	6.42	6.67
France Fr	10.25	9.47
Germany Dm	3.08	2.94
Greece Dr	322	483
Hong Kong \$	13.52	12.52
Iceland Iskr	1.28	1.08
Ireland P£	1.21	1.12
Israel Shk	8.36	8.71
Italy Lit	8052	2811
Japan Yen	241.88	224.38
Malta	0.670	0.616
Malta	3.478	3.194
New Zealand \$	3.25	3.02
Norway Kr	13.00	11.98
Portugal Esc	311.30	282.27
S Africa Rd	8.12	8.16
Spain Ptas	200.25	242.85
Sweden Kr	13.59	12.48
Switzerland Fr	406.71	400.49
Turkey Lira	1.745	1.802
USA \$		

Notes for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Thames renegotiates Jakarta water contract

**BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT**

A KEY contract to manage water supplies in Jakarta between Thames Water and the Indonesian Government has been renegotiated after days of intensive talks involving the Foreign Office, the Export Credit Guarantee Department and the company. The 25-year, £225 million contract to manage half of Jakarta's water supplies had been halted after the fall of the Suharto Government.



Sir Robert Clarke, chairman of Thames Water, left, with Bill Alexander

It is thought that the Government and ECGD threw their weight behind helping to rebuild the deal in order to preserve an important overseas contract and to encourage confidence in other international initiatives by British companies. But analysts fear that Thames will not get the revenues it had hoped for from the deal, which is its biggest overseas commitment. The company would not disclose details of the new contract, although it stressed that its investment in Jakarta would not be large and would be staged.

Thames is now in talks with potential partners to take a 15 per cent stake in the initiative after buying out — for "a negligible sum" — its local partner PT Kekarjaya Airindo, which is owned by former President Suharto's eldest son. Yesterday Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux bought out its local partner in its contract to supply water to the other half of Jakarta. Bill Alexander, chief executive of Thames, said there had been times over the past few days when the company had come close to walking away from the contract, which had taken four years to negotiate. But he said Thames remained committed to overseas expansion and wanted the company "to be the fastest-growing water business in the world." Thames yesterday announced an expected share

buyback of about £300 million and said it would put £100 million into discretionary investment. Mr Alexander said the two announcements proved that the company split benefits between shareholders and customers. He also joined other water companies in giving

a warning on the effects of a large one-off cut in bills that the regulator is expected to make in his next pricing review, to be implemented in two years. Mr Alexander said a large one-off cut could result in higher subsequent bills if the companies were struggling to fund investment. Pre-tax profits for the year to March 31, before exceptional, were £407 million (£394 million). Adjusted earnings per share rose to 90.7p (85.5p). The total dividend was raised 11.6 per cent to 38.4p, with a final of 25.9p due on September 1.

RBS withdraws its £630m offer for Midshires

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of Birmingham Midshires will have to wait until the second half of next year for their windfalls after the building society was yesterday released from its exclusive agreement with Royal Bank of Scotland. RBS said it had agreed to withdraw its £630 million offer for Midshires on condition that the society paid £5 million towards its costs, plus a further £10 million if it is bought by Halifax before January 2000. The Midshires board is now free to talk to Halifax, which succeeded the RBS deal by tabling a £780 million bid, while offering the same three-year guarantee on jobs and a pledge that the Midshires name would be retained. Midshires yesterday em-

phasised that it was open to other offers, although it did not want to enter an auction where the successful purchaser would be determined solely by price. No other offers have yet been made, nor have any potential buyers indicated their interest in the society. Banking analysts said no one was likely to outbid Halifax, particularly as financial stocks had shed some of their value in recent weeks. While Lloyds TSB, Barclays and Abbey National have all been reported as possible acquirers, City sources suggested that an Irish bank was a more likely challenger. A spokesman for Midshires said: "We are in no rush. Price is not the only factor in play here."

Dairy Crest seeks fresh acquisitions

DAIRY CREST is on the lookout for further acquisitions in the wake of its purchase earlier this year of Raines Dairy Foods (Sarah Cunningham writes). The company would be interested in other dairy businesses, both in the UK and overseas. Dairy Crest would not specify how much it was prepared to invest, but said it has a strong balance sheet and low gearing. Yesterday Dairy Crest, which is behind the Cathedral City, Clover and Frij brands, reported pre-tax profits of £40.6 million, for the year to March 31 compared with £35.5 million. Turnover was virtually unchanged at £787.4 million. Earnings per share rose from 22.4p to 25.7p and the company will pay a final dividend of 7.4p giving a total for the year of 10.9p (9.9p).

Retail spending shows fresh signs of slowing

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMER credit growth fell to its lowest levels in six months in April, providing fresh evidence that consumer spending is beginning to slow. April consumer credit growth totalled £866 million compared with £1.4 billion in March. The April figure was the lowest since September. Non-card spending slipped sharply to £486 million compared with £1 billion in March, suggesting that spending on items such as cars and home improvements is also beginning to slow. Credit card lending increased by £380 million compared with £407 million the previous month. Economists said the data should bring some relief to the markets because the recent strength in consumer credit figures had prompted concern

that retail spending could take off again. The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee meeting starts today and is expected to leave rates on hold. The pound, however, shrugged off the latest figures as worries over events in Russia and Asia continued to dominate the markets. It closed up slightly at DM2.9174. Separate data showed that growth in the construction sector moderated for the third month running. The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Construction survey index of activity slipped from 59.7 to 57.6. The Treasury's quarterly breakdown of its currency reserves showed underlying reserves falling just \$1 billion to \$34.79 billion.

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ix shares slide as are called off

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to offer pensions

The company is planning to launch a...
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n value tops £4bn

The company's value has risen to...
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core profits surge

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HEWLETT
PACKARD

Millennium manhunt at M&S



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

On Monday Sir Richard Greenbury joined Tony Blair to launch The Children's Promise, a campaign which aims to persuade everyone in the UK to give their final hour's earnings of this millennium to children's charities. Putting the considerable weight of Marks & Spencer behind the project is Sir Richard's canny response to the Government's continuing cajoling to bully British business into backing the millennium celebrations. Sir Richard was not about to see his £12 million vanish under the roof of the Greenwich Dome so he has negotiated a deal which puts most of the M&S pledge to charitable effect but still buys pride of place in the National Identity Zone at Peter Mandelson's fun palace.

There, in Dome-speak, M&S "will showcase its special relationship with the British way of life". Why the crowds should flock to Greenwich to see that instead of simply taking a trip to Marble Arch is a mystery yet to be explained. What also remains to be explained is the capacity in which Sir Richard will be earning that final hour's salary in 1999. The chances are that he will see out the millennium in the same executive chairman role in which he seems to have been installed for decades. The next century will not be very old, however, before there is change at the top of M&S.

The timetable may not suit everyone, either inside the company, where there is one obviously disenchanted would-be successor in the shape of deputy chairman Keith Oates, or outside, where some analysts have been craving certainty over who will take the helm. But there is good reason behind the delay. Marks is undergoing a period of unprecedented upheaval. Some of it was carefully planned, such as the £2 billion expansion programme currently under way and the launch into mail order. Some of it results from opportunism: the chance to cherry pick the best of Littlewoods' store portfolio was unmissable but integration is complicated although it will cement Marks' dominant position in the British high street. Some is unexpected and unwanted: the financial crises in Asia were not part of the M&S plan, and the effect on the Hong Kong stores has been instant and unpleasant. The upshot is that M&S figures for the next couple of years will not look as Sir Richard had planned.

The non-executive directors looked at the options and decided that Sir Richard might be their best bet to lead the company through the turbulence. This was a change of plan. Boardroom minutes reveal that in 1995 it was decided that Sir Richard would step down this year, at the age of 62. But by last autumn, the non-execs had apparently come to the view that this was not the answer. With its combination of food, financial services and fashion operating internationally, M&S is a hugely complicated business. Greenbury knows every bit of it; the non-execs were not convinced that Oates, or any of the three competing managing directors, were ready for the task.

They are a tough team, used to dealing with strong executives and would not give anyone a contract for life — or more than a year. Among them are Sir Martin Jacob, chairman of the Pru, Sir Michael Perry, a former Unilever chairman, Brian Baldoock, former deputy chairman of Guinness, Sir Ralph Robins, chairman of Rolls-Royce, and Dame Stella Rimington, former director-general of MI5. Sir Martin, in particular, has to consider the future of the Pru's

5.5 per cent holding in the company when he listens to Sir Richard's undoubtedly strong views on how the business should be run. Change is coming, and a non-executive chairman will be installed: if he can let go enough, it might even be Sir Richard for a time. But the reckoning is that the company can sensibly take a year to arrive at the right structure for the next millennium. During that time a new star may emerge to leapfrog the queue for the chief executive's role. Insiders enthuse over the talents of Chris Littmoden, an internationalist who sorted out Brooks Brothers in the US and has also made an impact as a special adviser to the Ministry of Defence.

Behind Littmoden and his peers come a raft of talented executives who are being groomed for senior roles. While Sir Richard may not have produced an obvious successor to step straight into his shoes, he does, through the company's Development Committee, have a group of thirtysomethings who are treated to a management training scheme most business schools could not emulate. Speakers range from government ministers to Pearson's Marjorie Scardino. Few who graduate from the group would dream of ever leaving M&S.

It is a long-term business which makes the recent under-performance of the shares all the more unwarranted. While analysts worry over the short-term impact of the Asian crisis, Sir Richard is pondering whether he should take the company deep into Japan and China, where he has had a team for two years. He says that he tries to take decisions that will benefit the company for the next 40 years, unlike the money men who move their funds around with a view on the next two weeks. He has stamped his personality on the business more than he could have ever dreamt when

Camelot quest for the gravy train

Lotteries are all about making money, and Camelot is not one to disappoint. Sales in 1997 topped £5.5 billion, raising £1.6 billion for Good Causes, and giving the National Lottery operator a £54.2 million profit after tax — more than £1 million a week for doing what many regard as very little. The board enjoyed further big pay rises, led by Tim Holley, the chief executive, who took home £740,000 last year, including a big pension top-up. Some £2.7 billion is paid out in prizes, and £708 million goes to the Treasury.

Sterling advice

COMPANIONS in that doughy band who said sterling was too high before we went into the ERM, will give respect to Simon Wren-Lewis, co-author of *Real Exchange Rates for the Year 2000*. He calculates that the pound's fundamental equilibrium rate is now between 2 and 2.5 marks, say DM2.30. Joining the euro at anything like today's DM2.92 would be mad. But will Gordon Brown believe this any more than John Major in 1990?

MEPC to give back £400m to shareholders

By Carl Mortished

MEPC has increased by a third the size of its planned payback to shareholders. The property company will return £400 million of capital to investors after rapid progress in the sale of its overseas assets.

The repayment will take the form of a bonus issue of redeemable "B" shares after approval of the scheme at an extraordinary meeting. In September MEPC announced plans to shed its Australian and US properties and promised that £300 million would be returned.

James Tuckey, chief executive, said that £1 billion of property was sold or under offer. "We decided that the best figure was £400 million, which reflects better and quicker results from disposals."

Balance sheet gearing after the capital repayment will be 65 per cent, without taking into account the year-end revaluation. However, interest cover could fall to 1.7 times next year, as MEPC's £500 million-plus development programme reaches a peak and before rental income is secured to balance the outgoings.

In the half year to March 31 MEPC's pre-tax profits totalled £109 million (£3 million). The previous half year had included a one-off £73 million charge for unwinding onerous interest rate swaps.

The company also confirmed that Sir John Egan will replace Lord Blakenham as chairman on August 1.

The interim dividend is 4p, to be paid as a foreign income dividend (5.25p).

Oasis shares lifted 16% by sales figures

SHARES in Oasis Stores leapt 16 per cent yesterday after the company, which issued two profit warnings last year, reported a sales comeback (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Michael Bennett, the chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that sales in the first 17 weeks of this year were 9 per cent ahead on a like-for-like basis.

Total sales were up 19 per cent. The company's shares rose 28p to 202p in response to the statement. The shares peaked at 421p last year.

Tempus, page 30

GB Railways generates £3.6m profit

GB Railways, the Anglia Railways franchise, is the latest train company to generate significant profits despite a deterioration in punctuality levels (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company said yesterday that it had pre-tax profits of £3.65 million in its first 18 months, and £3.22 million in the year to the end of March. The maiden dividend is 5p.

On average, the network ranked sixth amongst the worst ten in the punctuality league, but still received an incentive bonus of £307,000 on top of a £35.9 million subsidy.

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Earnings per Share (pence)	62.0	54.1	up 14.6%
Dividend per Share (pence)	16.2	14.7	up 10.2%

SALES TREND

(£m)



EARNINGS PER SHARE

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There are few perceptible silver linings to the deepening Asian crisis but Charles Goodhart has found one. For academic economists, the current plight of Japan is a source of rare intellectual excitement because, for the first time in the 65 years since John Maynard Keynes talked about the liquidity trap, Japan seems finally to have provided empirical evidence that it exists.

In an otherwise sombre assessment of the picture in Japan, Professor Goodhart, speaking at a London School of Economics conference last week, positively bubbled with excitement. There has been much talk of late that Japan may be moved to cut its official discount rate from 0.5 per cent to 0.25 per cent or even zero in a desperate attempt to re-ignite a moribund domestic demand. But, as Lord Keynes explained so long ago, it may find that it is "pushing on a string", the phenomenon in which interest rates become so low that demand simply does not react.

Too soon to go bottom-fishing in Asia

Fiscal policy ought to come to the fore in this case but, here again, Japan faces apparently insurmountable obstacles. Its budget deficit is already running at some 7 per cent of GDP and it faces not only the huge costs of bailing out its rotten banking sector, but also meeting the growing demands of an ageing population.

Up to now, Tokyo has been under huge international pressure to stimulate the economy through tax cuts and higher public spending. But the Japanese people know that raising the budget deficit now will inevitably lead to a drastic fiscal squeeze later. Why spend the extra money received courtesy of tax cuts when it is going to be clawed back later? It is quite possible that domestic demand will fail to react to fiscal stimulus. Given the limitations of ortho-

dox monetary and fiscal policy, a much more radical option is now being mooted. Paul Krugman, of MIT, is currently advocating nothing less than a full-scale monetisation of the economy. He believes that the time has come for the central bank to print money day and night, flood the economy with it to produce inflationary expectations and so, the theory goes, persuade scared Japanese consumers to start running down their savings.

Professor Goodhart comes to a similar conclusion. He said Japan's central bank ought to "buy everything in sight", not just bonds but property and other assets.

There is evidence that this is already happening. Japan's monetary base has risen by a spectacular 37 per cent in the past six months as the central bank has

worth about 4 per cent of GDP in exchange for much less liquid government bonds. This is very close to outright monetisation.

The most obvious result of this policy is the slide in the yen and, despite the protestations to the contrary in Tokyo, a weaker yen now seems to be the policy of choice, perhaps the only conceivable policy. Even the US, which has always fought against a soft yen because of the impact on its trade performance, appears ready to countenance a continuing slide in the Japanese currency as the lesser of two evils because it simply cannot afford to see the Japanese economy collapse.

Everything points to a lower yen and that is extremely worrisome for the rest of Asia. A slide in the yen would put even more pressure on its trading partners in the region and might even, if the fall is dramatic enough, trigger another round of competitive devaluations. If this happens, it seems extremely likely that China and Hong Kong will this time take part.

Economists who watch China have a genuine conviction that it is preparing to devalue the renminbi at some stage. Most believe that it is simply waiting for a semblance of calm to return to the Asian region. The recent political turmoil in Indonesia has probably delayed but not ruled out a move from Beijing. If the renminbi were to be devalued, the chances of Hong Kong maintaining its peg to the dollar become much slimmer. Indeed, some observers suggest that Hong Kong's government would privately welcome such a development to ease the severe economic squeeze that it is suffer-



JANET BUSH

flooded the Tokyo money markets with liquidity to head off total collapse in the banking system. Gavyn Davies, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs, said that it is disingenuous of the Bank of Japan to pretend, as it has been doing, that this is merely a technical operation. He said: "It has provided private sector banks with very short-term dated bills

Trouble looms as British mills face pressure to cut their coats

Fashion for cheap imports threatens to unravel rag trade, says Carl Mortished

Britain's mill-owners have survived almost a century of slide and decline but the textile trade is bracing itself for another onslaught. The pressures bearing down on the industry now threaten it like a vice and it will not emerge undamaged.

Last week, a cold wind blew through Scotland's woollen mills as Dawson International, owner of the Pringle brand, put itself up for sale. The move followed the announcement of job losses at Grampian Brands, owner of Edinburgh Woollen Mills, and two corporate failures. Sweater Shop, a maker and retailer of knitwear, is calling in administrative receivers only three years after a £150 million management buyout and Hollas, a quoted garment maker, has also given up the ghost.

The outlook is particularly bleak for the Scottish borders where thousands of jobs may be at risk as the knitwear trade struggles to keep pace with cheap imports and a fashion industry that has fallen out of love with woollens.

This is not just a regional problem — the textile industry in Britain is caught in a pair of huge pincers, threatened from one side by the strong pound and weak export markets in Asia and on the other by rising labour costs.

Textile industry bosses went into a frenzy of lobbying to keep the Government's proposed minimum wage at the level of average basic pay, excluding bonuses, — said to be about £3.42 per hour. According to John Wilson, of the British Apparel and Textile Federation, employers are disappointed that the Low Pay Commission came up with a figure of £3.60. Labour amounts to some 30 per cent of the cost of many textile products and the customer, Britain's retail trade, is in no mood



The quick response of domestic producers to catwalk fashions is one of their key attractions

to grant favours. Mr Wilson said: "At £3.60 we are looking at pay claims of 5½ per cent. On top of that there is the introduction of the 48-hour week, the strength of sterling and low-cost imports. It is highly unlikely that we will see price increases to compensate for lost margin."

The response from the high street is not very sympathetic. Major retailers reckon they have enough trouble tempting shoppers to buy at last year's

prices. A spokesman from Marks & Spencer spells it out: "There are signs that consumer spending is tightening — that doesn't leave much room for price increases."

In fact, retailers long ago abandoned cost-plus pricing. Today, a firm like Marks & Spencer might decide to position a product, say a shirt, at £19.99. It will then ask a garment maker to supply tens of thousands of shirts at a price that gives the retailer a

specific gross margin. With a dozen such retailers dominating the high street there is little room for suppliers to negotiate a better deal.

But the rag trade bosses have a specific fear over the minimum wage — much of a worker's take-home pay is made up of payments for piece-work. If the £3.60 threshold fails to take account of the incentive payments and bonuses that make up average pay of £4 per hour-plus, costs

could rocket and productivity fall. "If they increase the floor, it undermines incentives," said Mr Wilson.

Textile bosses are hopeful that their message has been heard but even a benign outcome over the minimum wage will do little to stop the steady erosion of the UK's textile manufacturing base. Clothing imports already account for some 50-60 per cent of the market and that will continue to rise as the textile giants, such as Courtaulds Textiles and Coats Viyella, shift production to North Africa and the Far East.

That process will accelerate, says Robin Anson, of Textile Intelligence, the consultancy, who predicts that import penetration could reach 75-80 per cent. "It's a labour cost problem and the high pound and Asian currency collapse exacerbates it."

Until 1994, the Western textile industry was protected by import quotas under the terms of the Multi-Fibre Agreement, a deal which developing countries resented. The MFA was replaced by a new agreement that gradually removes the quotas over the next seven years. In 2002 a whole raft of import restrictions will be shelved and in 2005, the British textile industry will be facing the bracing chill of a market free of quotas altogether.

Mr Anson believes that the leading textile companies will remain under tremendous pressure, unless they switch to importing. "Every year the world price of clothing falls in dollar terms. It reflects the fact that there are more and more newcomers and more and more products are becoming commodities."

This will lead to greater concentration as small domestic suppliers struggle to compete with firms overseas enjoying unit labour costs less than half those in the UK. Ultimately, Mr Anson sees the successful UK textile firms as being sources, tied root and branch to the big British retailers but acting as intermediaries for overseas manufacturing.

The link between the mass market clothing retailers and their suppliers is key to the future of the industry. Marks & Spencer, which has 16 per cent of the UK market reckons it is "buying production", rather than just purchasing

clothes. For the textile trade, the dominance of a few big retailers is both a blessing and a curse. The market clout of Next and M&S ensures the volume that a manufacturer needs to cover overheads but it also reduces barriers to entry for foreign interlopers. As Mr Anson puts it: "If I want to move into the UK garment trade, I just need to make four or five successful calls and I have sewn up a third of the market."

Years ago, the answer for many textile firms was investment in technology but the double whammy of the high pound and the Asian currency meltdown has left even the most high-tech mills with costs that are still too burdensome to resist the wave of imports.

The minimum wage may, in the end, have little impact on a contracting industry. Retailers will pay extra to maintain the minimum of a domestic industry. They point to the need for quick-response garment production: fashion moves fast and shops want to be able to switch to a new colour or style within a matter of weeks after it is paraded on a Paris catwalk. That rules out Indonesia and, for very rapid response, even Morocco is too far.

But for the bread and butter business, North Africa suits both retailer and textile boss just fine. For the latter it is the only insurance against the continual assault on their margins. As a spokesman for Courtaulds Textiles put it: "What we know is that our retail customers are not willing to pay more for the product."

And if we are not prepared to pay more than £19.99 for a shirt, the lights will soon go out at the mill.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Unlimited names and spread vehicles must act together to secure future

From Mr M. H. G. Young

Sir, It is hardly new that some sectors of the Lloyd's market are trying to push out unlimited names. We are no longer convenient and those managing agents who have created their wealth on the back of our capital are longing to get rid of us as soon as they can.

To date they have tried this by artifice. Many have increased their charges to names so that the risk/reward ratio becomes less attractive. Also, the Council has been persuaded that capital requirements for names need to be brought into line with Lloyd's corporate vehicles so that there will be little point in maintaining our status quo.

But unlimited names are not the only category that is vulnerable to expulsion. The type of backing that a managing agent really wants for its syndicates is that provided by

shareholders — dedicated corporate capital. Apart from convenience, it is liked because it cannot switch to other syndicates if its own perform badly.

Incorporated spread vehicles, which support other agents' syndicates, can and do make changes, and I am prepared to bet that, if names are eased out, they will be next on the list, together with NamesCos and Scottish limited partnerships.

Unlimited names and spread vehicles account for 40 per cent and 35 per cent of the Lloyd's market respectively and it is time that we realise that our interests are much the same and start acting together to secure our future.

Yours faithfully,
M. H. G. YOUNG,
22 Arundel Road,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent TN11 1TB

Viewing deposit and mortgage rate averages in their true perspective

From Mr Richard H. C. Palmer

Sir, I am surprised by Malcolm Bruce's view of deposit and mortgage averages (business letter, May 22).

Although a reduction in mortgage rate has to be matched by a reduction in savers' rates, it does not signify an even spread.

Mr Bruce suggests that on joining monetary union, those depositors with above average balances will be able to find more profitable investments in equity-based products.

That is already the case — that is why deposit rates are

stepped. Rates at the lower to average spread are barely covering inflation.

If more funds are withdrawn than deposited at a time when rates are reduced, the average of balance spread is lowered.

Could Mr Bruce say where borrowers are to find their mortgages when house prices increase? Or perhaps house prices will also fall as a result of inadequate mortgage funding.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD H. C. PALMER,
26 Torvale Road,
Wightwick,
Wolverhampton,
WV6 8NL

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Wine barred

A VERY English lunch, spent leaning at 45 degrees into Arctic winds watching Sir Tim Rice, Lorraine Chase *et al* trying to hit croquet balls across the quagmire that is the pitch in Exchange Square, Broadgate. Chase is particularly charming as she clutches on to my hand for warmth; that sort of thing can make quite a difference to one's day, and she says sales of her plain language guide to investment are going well.

For it is the launch of the Corney & Barrow/Veuve Clicquot Croquet League, featuring entrants from Hoare



Chase: plain English guide

Govett, Kleinwort's, Macfarlanes and Société Générale. I wish them the best of the weather; they can do wonders for frostbite victims these days. But I hear of a culture clash between the wine bar operator and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, the fiercely competitive American investment bank. DLJ has taken a six-storey building in Old Broad Street for its London HQ, the site of one of Corney's first ever bars in the City, dating from 1870.

Corney is negotiating with the developers to open a bar there in September. The Americans were not keen because this might encourage lunchtime drinking, which is verboten. So a deal has been struck whereby the DLJ staff are banned. I expect this to be rigorously enforced.

YESTERDAY was an important day for MEPC and for its chairman, until August, Lord Blakenham. Interim results, £400 million handed to shareholders and the announcement of his replacement, Sir John Egan. Yet his lordship was lost without trace. He might be on holiday in the Outer Hebrides. Or some other Scottish island. no



one can say. Strange that he should have missed the big event, but then Lord Blakenham ran a relaxed ship at Pearson, too, the other big company he once chaired.

Arch types

SOME £30 million is an awful lot to pay for a cavern under some railway arches by the Thames, so one must assume Vardon, buyer of Cannons Sports and Leisure, knows what it is doing. Nick Irens, the chief executive, assures me that the property men put a valuation of £35 million on the business. He is convinced he is getting a good deal, because the club, and its Covent Garden offshoot, would have

fetched more on the open market, but the sellers are unwilling to reveal their identities.

Hmm. The club was bought out of the empire of Jack Chia, a Singapore businessman, in 1990 after talk of floating it on the stock market. The price then was £12 million, and this was the last time the market went silly, remember. The buyout was by the chief executive, Ron Clarke, the former long-distance runner, and Kleinwort Benson. The business has changed hands a few times since, allowing all to take some profits. Clarke, like Lord Blakenham above, has opted for an offshore existence, creating a wildlife reserve off the coast of Queensland, Australia.

MOBILE phone companies spend millions disguising unsightly phone masts as trees to avoid offending the locals. Good public relations, even if it doesn't do a lot for Chris Gent, the chirpy chief executive of Vodafone. He admitted yesterday that his company's own camouflaged masts are less than convincing. "Most of them look more like inverted loo brushes."

Double entry

ACCOUNTANTS always have to balance the books, which must explain the bi-

zarré voting at yesterday's annual general meeting of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. A reform group had put down a motion reducing the number of council members to 53. This, to the discomfort of the Institute's council, was carried with eight thousand members in favour.

MARTIN WALLER



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Annie Turner introduces a three-page special report on a telecommunications conference devoted to the phone's role in commerce

Direct connection that means business



They've got your number: visitors at last year's Telebusiness conference

What promises to be Britain's largest and most comprehensive exhibition aimed at people doing business over the phone will be staged at Wembley Conference Centre over three days next week.

At Telebusiness 98 the emphasis will be strongly on people rather than technology, with more than 150 companies from Europe and America demonstrating their products and services. A free conference programme will run alongside it. This year, for the first time, the exhibition is incorporating what the organisers call an executive congress. This three-day event is dedicated exclusively to call centres and will feature presentations by successful users of existing technology and services in the call-centre market.

The exhibition — from June 9 to 11 — reflects everyone's growing reliance on the phone to conduct business. According to BT, the number of calls we make each year to special numbers — such as free 0800 numbers — has risen from 39 million in 1987 to over a billion in 1997.

A BT survey found that 92 per cent of consumers have used the phone for banking, catalogue purchases, product inquiries, complaints, account handling or ordering services. A Teleculture Futures study by BT and the Henley Centre found that people aged 25 to 34 use the phone the most.

BT says that only 13 per cent of us are "telephobes" — people who have a negative response to the telebusiness culture — while 53 per cent are "telephiles", and use the phone regularly for ordering products and services. Anecdotal and personal experience suggest that our enthusiasm for using call centres or talking to a machine — known as Interactive Voice Response or IVR — depends on how well it suits our needs at any given time.

My neighbour, for instance, describes the service offered by BSKyB for its pay-per-view programmes as stunning. He dials and within seconds, the BSKyB Syntellect system recognises his home number and knows which film or boxing match he wants to watch by

the number he has dialled. He does not mind communicating with a machine, and is delighted by the speed of the transaction and that he does not have to go through the fuss of repeating his details each time.

This is in contrast to my experience when trying to contact Compuserve, an Internet service provider, recently. I was forced to work

this way saves Compuserve a lot of money, but it did nothing for me, a longstanding customer.

Companies that run call centres are increasingly trying to convert them from cost centres to revenue generators. Typical call centre users are companies with a large customer base, such as utilities and mail-order firms — although as the technology becomes more affordable, many smaller companies are using them. However, when call centres are used for outbound-calling campaigns, companies risk annoying and so losing their customers.

Caroline Geraerts is the marketing manager with the London-based company Logica, which has been responsible for installing more than 30 call centres around the world. She says: "Using call centres for outbound calls needs tact; when incoming calls are in a trough, it is no good simply switching agents to making marketing calls, as you are likely to catch someone when they've just walked in from work or are eating."

"Companies should garner information on their customers' habits and work patterns and find out when it is convenient for them to be called."

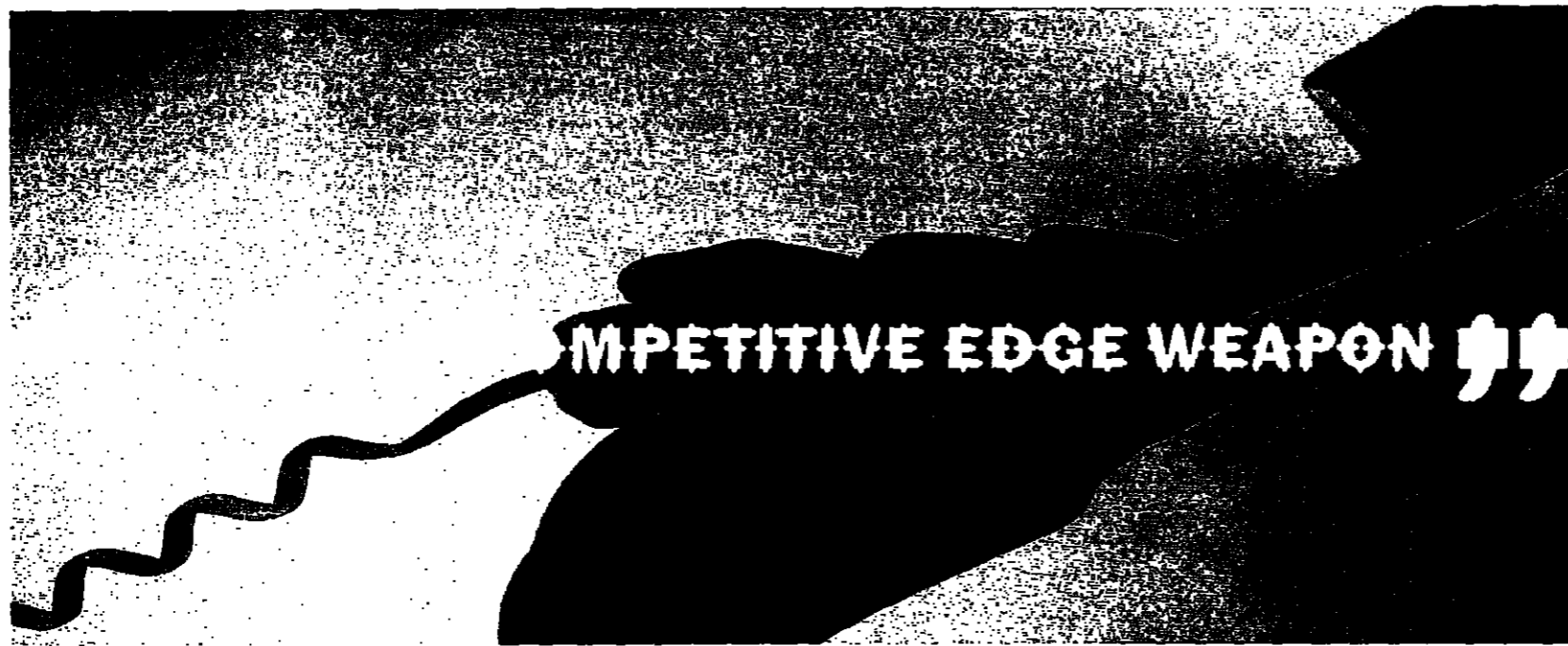
We have already built these sorts of functions into some of our call centre systems and companies are beginning to experiment with them now."

I have three residential lines and must have told BT at least 12 times in two years that I would like them to decide which Family and Friends numbers are the most advantageous for me to use. Typically there are two responses: "I'm sorry but I don't have access to that information" — which is a symptom of poor system design — and "lots of people say that and we pass the comments on", which reflects BT's problems, not a fundamental flaw in the telebusiness industry.

Frustrating as telebusiness can be for the consumer, the problem is not inherently to do with using the phone, so it will continue to boom. Smart companies will learn how to exploit the technology best, both for their own and their customers' benefits.

The emphasis will be on people rather than technology

through two menus, only to discover that not one option offered was relevant. In desperation, I started pressing numbers in the hope of gaining access to an operator, but every time I just dropped into the next set of options. As far as I could discover, there was no recourse to an operator. I tried the customer service helpline as well as the technical helpline and had the same experience. I am sure working



DAVID JONES, MANAGING DIRECTOR, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, SCOTTISHPOWER.

These are exciting times for ScottishPower. When you are moving towards becoming a leading edge multi-utility organisation, it requires even greater than ever levels of effort to retain existing customers and win new business.

A goal which required ScottishPower setting up a call centre to establish a much closer direct relationship with over 3 million customers. A dramatic shift, which had to be achieved quickly.

ScottishPower chose GT-X, Graham Technology's award winning business process server software, running on a mix of SUN Microsystems Ultra 1 and Ultra 2 Application servers as the front end solution handling over 3,000 inbound and outbound calls per hour through their 400 seat call centre.

David Jones commented "Call Centre Technology and Web Technology is going to be the major customer facing technology of the future. It is how we effectively interface with our customers now and in the future. We identified in the GT-X product and in Graham Technology a company and a

product that could allow the business to look to the future".

With GT-X handling calls to and from the call centre, ScottishPower has met all its objectives of providing the highest quality customer service in a single location. GT-X's ease of use and implementation dramatically shortens training times for the operators who can pull data from around the organisation to help provide better feedback on customer needs.

"The implementation of our call centre was a very high risk project. It is to the enormous credit of the Graham Technology team that they delivered a product that our customers think is outstanding, delivered within a very tight lead time and within budget". Graham Technology's expertise and the GT-X solution gives ScottishPower all the power it needs

to lead into the new millennium. "We are convinced that this product is still the only product on the market that will take us where we need to go, or where any customer facing organisation needs to go. GT-X is an outstanding call centre product".

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ADMINISTRATION

SUSAN SHIPMAN, managing director of Starform Communications, the organiser of Telebusiness 98, took charge of preparing the exhibition because of the death in January of her 41-year-old husband Philip from cancer.

Mr Shipman, a solicitor by profession, had no first-hand experience of the call centre industry when he staged the first Telebusiness exhibition and conference two years ago. Spotting a niche in a fledgling industry in which many businesses have difficulty keeping track of the advances in communications, he ensured the exhibition's success by offering visitors free entrance both



to the exhibition and to a series of associated conferences and workshops featuring specialist speakers. Mrs Shipman says: "Nobody else was offering free conferences and the success of the event exceeded everyone's expectations. This year's event is a third larger than last year's."

2000 and one big headache

WHEN you pick up the telephone on January 1 in the year 2000, will there be a network to convey your message, or will you just get "unobtainable"? When you go back to work on January 4 and send data down the line, will it get there? Or will the millennium bug have eaten the telephone network?

Sixteen per cent of businesses worldwide are expected to fail to deal with the fact that their computers may not recognise the date change to the year 2000, and will suddenly think it is 1900. Vast numbers of UK and international companies are now heavily dependent on the telecommunications network for telephone services and data transmission. So have the network providers solved the millennium problem?

Henri Van der Stighelen is a senior consultant with management support company OSI Group, and deputy chairman of a Year 2000 group at TMA, the Telecoms Managers' Association. He says: "Companies such as BT began working on the problem some time ago, but many small to medium IT and telecoms enterprises have been slower. Technically it is a simple problem but it is multiplied millions of times, and that gives it magnitude."

He believes total network failure is unlikely, but thinks

that the service could become patchy. He says: "The modern network is very different from the old mechanical system."

Nick Waugh is IT director of a specialist lender, HFC Bank, which is planning to contact all its customers before the big day, via their Goldfish credit card statements, for example. He says: "We are anticipating when most of the inquiries will come in by identifying when the media hype will begin. We are already getting a small number of casual inquiries, so we expect more."

Cable & Wireless is training its call centre staff to answer questions and is providing information on how the company is tackling the issue. Inquiries from business customers will be handled by their account manager. It is also posting regularly updated information on its Website, <http://www.cwoom.co.uk>

Another worry, says Mr Van der Stighelen, is that companies need to reassure customers that their bills are being correctly issued. "If bills are disputed, it can have an impact on cashflow."

Cable & Wireless is focusing its £70 million Year 2000 effort on systems which support billing and fault logging.

SUE SPENCELEY BURGESS

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- ❑ Review of business attitudes towards the use of the telephone as a business/marketing tool
- ❑ Analysis of call centre technologies and the growth of CTI (Computer Telephony Integration)
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Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Call centres are taking a new line to improve the lot of staff, says Annie Turner

WORKPLACE

Few people last longer than 18 months working in call centres and, with the bad publicity they have got as places to work, this is unsurprising. So far, too little attention has been paid to agents as individuals but this is beginning to change as the value of expertise in call centre staff is being realised and greater attention is paid to recruitment and training, says Simon Roncoroni, managing director of L&R Group, a London consultancy on setting up call centres.

Every call an agent takes is timed and usually a supervisor can listen in without warning to check that the agent is handling calls in an approved way.

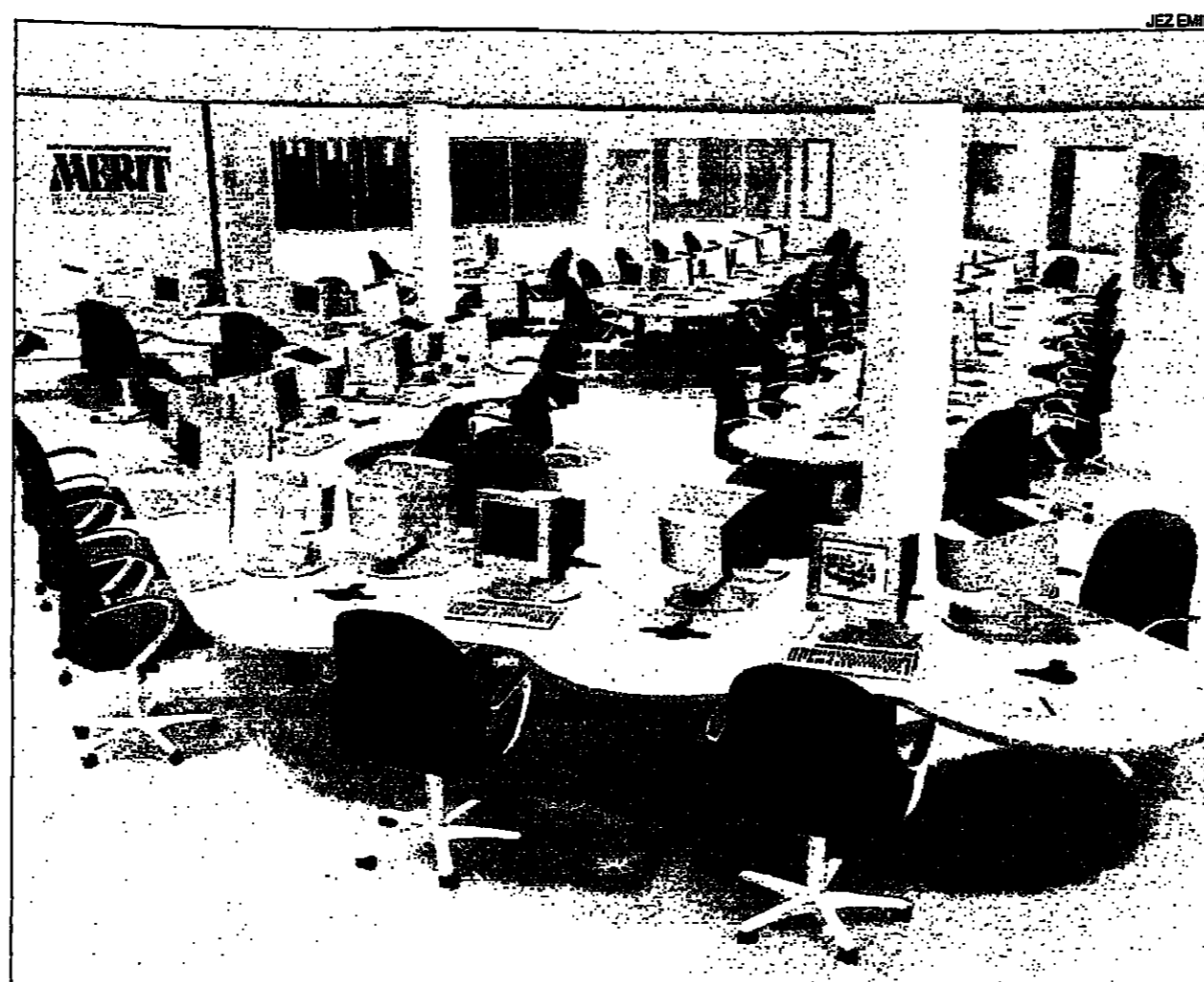
At all times a huge, lit board shows how many calls are incoming and how quickly they are being answered, which helps to keep up the psychological pressure.

Automatic call distribution (ACD) is used so that as soon as an agent completes one call, he or she is fed the next in the queue.

For agents making outbound sales or calls following up inquiries, a so-called predictive dialler systematically works through the list of numbers allocated and dials them automatically, to save the agents' time. It connects the agent only to live calls, filtering out answering machines, engaged lines (which it redials later) and those being used by fax machines.

Sue Fernie, research fellow at the London School of Economics Centre for Economic Performance (CEP), recently wrote: "The possibilities for monitoring behaviour and measuring output in call centres is amazing to behold — the tyranny of the assembly line is but a Sunday school picnic compared with the control that management can exercise in computer telephony."

According to Ms Fernie there are some 7,000 call centres in Britain that between them employ more than 200,000 agents — half the total number of call centre agents employed in Europe and about 1.1 per cent of the total



This attractive call centre office has been designed to combat high staff turnover, a perennial industry problem

Sound and the fury of call centre boom

UK workforce. This is expected to double by 2001. There are already more people employed in call centres in Britain than in coal, steel and vehicle production put together.

Clearly this is a major issue for the economy at large as well as for individuals. Around 60 per cent of the costs associated with call centres are accounted for by staff. Many call centres employ between 200 and 400 agents, which means that training and retention are serious economic issues for employers. This is aggravated by the fact that there are often a number of call centres sited near each other, lured there by regional development council grants and a plentiful supply of cheaper labour. In such areas, the turnover of staff is

increased as employees move around. For all these reasons, there appears to be a change among companies running call centres. Ms Fernie's work is blazing a trail on how best to

'The tyranny of the assembly line is a picnic compared with control in computer telephony'

provide incentives for agents, and discusses the possibilities of performance-related pay for staff. Madan Sheina, consultant with London-based Ovum, says: "Previously, working in a call centre was not viewed as a desirable profession, but that is changing

as companies put much more into training staff and making their work far more treatable. Employers now understand that it is not enough to train someone for a couple of days and then let them loose on customers. There is a shift towards customers being handled in a structured way to making it more personal. Also, in finance and insurance services, agents have to understand the products inside out and gain a great deal of information to ensure the right products are recommended."

He agrees with Caroline Geraerts, marketing manager with London-based Logica, that there is a great deal of evidence to suggest that companies are increasingly seeking

to employ graduates. Ms Geraerts says that making the work more interesting is important and that a mixture of inbound and outbound calls (known as blending) certainly contributes greatly. Nevertheless she points out: "You need a special sort of person to be able to deal with customer care and service as well as sales calls. Staff need to be good at handling complaints and to have 'the ability to withstand rejection on the sales side.'"

Perhaps Maurice Jones, managing director of C3 Computer Telephony, sums it up best. He says: "So far the main investment has gone into the heavy metal technology, whereas companies are now far more interested in figuring out how to get the best out of their staff and make sure they keep them."

Dialling up some help from outside

Tony Dawe looks at the way business turns to independent firms to handle telephone inquiries

OUTSOURCING



Ann-Marie Stagg: UK call centre award

MOST of us are accustomed to hearing an unfamiliar accent when we seek information over the telephone. Call Directory Enquiries from London and an Irish voice may answer. Take up a new share offer from Newcastle and encounter a West Country burr.

We accept that companies providing these services can choose to set up call centres for customers wherever costs will be low and staff available. We would be more surprised to learn that the people answering our calls do not belong to the companies we contact.

More and more businesses are turning to independent firms to provide the costly equipment and skilled staff needed to run a successful call centre. Over the past five years, "outsourcing", as it is known, has become a growing trend with 9,000 independent telephone operators now working for a score of companies.

That number is expected to double in two years, with everything from book clubs to banks seeking outside help to man the phones. "By outsourcing a service which is not its speciality, a company can concentrate on its core business," says Ann-Marie Stagg, who works for Vertex, a leading outsourcing firm. "It gets rid of the risk of buying the equipment without knowing how successful the venture will be. A company will pay for what it gets. If it requires 1,000 calls within a certain time and only 500 are taken, it will pay accordingly."

Ms Stagg has received this year's UK Call Centre Manager award for her work at the Vertex centre, Warrington, which handles billing enquiries for North West Water. She demonstrated the ability needed to juggle 155 staff between the demands of the water company and other service and marketing projects. "We get a flux of calls when custom-

Others turn to outsource companies to handle short campaigns for a new product or service or to help during periods of peak number of calls. Barclays Stockholders, which operates a call centre in Glasgow, adopted this approach when last year's building society and insurance company windfalls encouraged thousands more people to buy shares. Barclays called in BT CIB and devised a strategy to split calls between their two centres.

British Gas Trading has decided to outsource to BT the technology required to run its call centre but use its own staff to man the centres. Mr Vaughan adds: "The preferred option is still to run your own centre and many companies which start down the outsourcing route set up their own centres fairly quickly."

Financial institutions and companies which are completely reliant on telephone sales will generally prefer to run their own operation. For example, Halifax Direct, the bank's telephone-based service, employs 600 staff at a call centre in Leeds and has won awards for customer service and staff training.

This year Great Universal Stores' home shopping business expects 90 per cent of all its orders, customer inquiries and catalogue requests to be made by telephone. Its call centres handle nearly 60 million inward calls every year with a target of answering nine out of ten within ten seconds. Major investment has also been made in training so its team can maximise the potential of each call.

"As a home shopping company, we have no shops and so the call centre represents the only way for us to keep abreast of customers' needs and to canvass views on GUS products and services," a company spokesman says.

Using this method, a firm can concentrate on its core business

Illustration
 100 and one
 g headache
 MILLENNIUM

Christine Leveson used to be a telephonist

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A pool of talent

Fast link is a good bet for football

ISDN

THE World Cup will be the busiest period in the history of Sporting Index, a London firm specialising in a form of gambling called sports spread betting, which expects to take £10 million in bets during the football tournament. Craig Seaton writes.

As the firm's clients place their bets over the telephone, having a reliable telephone system will be critical during the World Cup between June 10 and July 12.

That is why, in April, the firm installed an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) telephone system capable of handling 200 simultaneous calls from clients dialling one number, backed up by an electronic queuing system.

The firm, formed in 1992, is based in Kennington, South London, and ordered the ISDN equipment from BT to replace a system that left too many clients unable to get through.

ISDN is a digital system that allows information to be sent and received by voice, data, images and video at speeds and with a clarity that BT says is equivalent to a private network.

Spread betting involves clients betting against predictions made by the company on almost any aspect of sporting events — such as how many corners will occur during a football match.

Sporting Index, with 10,000 clients, says it has 50 per cent of the UK spread betting market, which as a whole involves 27,000 calls a week.

Businesses can now install an ISDN link for the same price as a standard business telephone line and many small businesses are now taking advantage of the facility.

Julian Barke, the marketing manager, says: "The ISDN system has revolutionised the accessibility of our clients; it enables us to absorb a high volume of business from a large client base at a rapid pace."

David Mackenzie takes a look at how call centres, computer telephony and the Internet are set to change business

Net working for your firm's future

Call centres, computer telephony and the Internet are all regarded as fast-growing areas of business. Recent developments have meant that they are now converging to alter the way in which businesses operate.

The suppliers to the call centres are also changing the way in which they work. For example, Aspect Telecommunications — traditionally known as a supplier of telephone switches for the call centre — has now changed the way in which it describes itself.

It says: "Aspect helps businesses communicate with their remote customers in the most effective and cost-efficient ways."

This is interesting because there is no mention of telephony! What has taken place to bring about this change in view? Two or three recent developments in Internet technology are likely to revolutionise the way in which we communicate and, in particu-

lar, in the way that we do business in the future.

The first is the ability to send voice over the Internet. Voice over internet protocol (VoIP) allows voice to be sent through a conventional Internet connection, bypassing the telephone network.

Secondly, Internet "push" technology allows data to be pushed to someone browsing on the Internet rather than them having to ask for it. Thirdly, it is possible to share applications across an Internet connection allowing both the caller and the agent to interact.

What this means is that the way in which we interact with a company is set to change radically. With a conventional call centre you talk over the phone. It is purely an auditory experience. You speak, the agent speaks and that is how you interact. While very effective for some types of activity it only works for simple transactions. If a lot of information needs to be exchanged then it takes too long to impart. With

the new Internet technologies it is possible to both talk to the call centre, and use a Web browser to share information.

As an example, you could be looking at your bank's Web site and retrieve account information. If you then want to speak to an agent you can press a button and be connected to the agent, either via the standard telephone, or using VoIP.

The agent can then talk to you, but can also use "push" technology to guide you to other pages on the Internet. Suppose you want to compare the bank's products with someone else's. The agent could take you to that other bank's pages, and explain the benefits of its bank's products. The application sharing described also means that both the agent and the caller can, for example, draw on the Web page and the other person will see what is

CONVERGING TECHNOLOGY

happening. For example, if there is an element on a bank statement that wasn't understood then the caller could highlight it by drawing a circle round it and the agent would then see which element they meant. That is much easier than trying to describe it.

Video is another component

The way in which we interact with a company is about to alter

that can be used over the Internet. Once a connection with the Internet is established, then it would also be possible to send video to the caller.

This would allow an agent to show a caller how something worked, rather than having to describe it. The

overall effect is to change the interaction with a call centre from audio only into a multimedia experience using both audio and visual methods, and both static and dynamic information.

Why should companies use this technology? One key factor is that the Web currently is not proving to be an effective sales channel.

Last Christmas 130 merchants set up a Web site called eChristmas to promote gifts for Christmas. It had 250,000 visitors, 14,000 registered with site, but it sold only 350 items!

People simply did not trust it as a way of doing business.

People trust an agent they can talk to. It may also be an easier way of communicating with callers as it will allow callers to perform more complex transactions than are possible over the telephone alone.

Cost saving is obviously important. We are all familiar with the phrase "a picture saves a thousand words" and for a call centre time is money.

The use of the Internet also allows an element of self-service. If callers visit the Web site they may be able to get all the information they require without telephoning the call centre. If there is information that needs to be supplied, this can be done by filling in a form on the Web rather than telling an agent who types it in.

When the caller connects to the call centre the information supplied is automatically sent across. This can save both the agent and the caller time on the phone.

Finally, a feature peculiar to the Internet is the ability to leave information on a caller's PC that will identify them to the call centre the next time they call.

This is done through the use of "cookies", a small piece of data that is sent to the browser and stored on the caller's PC. How practical is all this at

the moment? There is little to stop companies working in this way now. The use of Web pages, buttons to connect to the call centre, and application sharing are all possible.

Aspect has a product called Web Agent that allows this. Microsoft gives away Net-Meeting, a general purpose conferencing product. Genesys Labs supports the Internet through its Net-Vectoring software and other companies do the same.

VoIP still suffers from some quality and delay problems, but these are rapidly being overcome. Finally, the use of IP with its ability to be used for voice, data and video over a single connection is a much more flexible way of connecting to a call centre than simple telephony.

Although the telephone is easy to use and widely available now, the flexibility of the Internet means it looks likely to be the communications method of the future.



Lingua franca: videophones may let the deaf make calls even to those who can hear

Digital sign of the times

Sue Spenceley Burch on how the latest technology can help the deaf

VIDEOPHONES

IT seems ironic that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone 120 years ago after studying speech and deafness and yet only now is it benefiting the deaf. Until recently the deaf could only use a Minicom terminal, composed of a keyboard and screen. Many deaf people find it invaluable to talk with each other and with businesses that provide Minicom-based customer services. But few hearing people have Minicom.

In 1991, the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID) launched Typetalk, to help the deaf communicate with the hearing. Funded by BT, Typetalk has 520 operators relaying talk between deaf and hearing people. The deaf person contacts Typetalk via Minicom. The operator makes the call and explains the service to the hearing recipient. The deaf users type their part of the conversation, which is read to the hearing persons by the operators, who type back their reply. The centre operates 24 hours a day, and handles 500,000 calls a month.

Typetalk user Rosalind German is

profoundly deaf. She says: "It has made a big difference. Now I can call anyone anytime — and they can contact me."

Reg McLoughlin, outreach manager at Typetalk, says: "One of the longest calls we have handled was a three-hour conversation with the Samaritans. Hearing people often start out a bit nervous, but then after one or two calls they find it easy and start to speak to the deaf person, rather than saying to the operator 'can you tell him?'"

Typetalk relies on English, a language not all deaf people use fluently. Many use British Sign Language (BSL) — a language with its own vocabulary and grammar. New videophone technology could allow deaf people to communicate with each other and with hearing people.

Last month the RNID launched a pilot scheme to set up videotelephones. A BSL user will be able to meet a hearing person at a public videophone and be connected

to an interpreter. Rosanna Preston is project manager. "Currently a BSL user may need to book an interpreter two weeks ahead. Videotelephony will make better use of resources and we hope to provide 24-hour service."

The RNID has been given 30 PC-based videophones by BT, and will place them in Citizens Advice Bureaux, libraries and hospitals. The scheme also aims to link into existing videophone resources.

With ISDN, videophones driven by powerful computers are emerging. Rob Jackson, an electronic communications engineer with the RNID, believes that videophones for everyone are not far away. "Penetration is limited by ISDN connections. BT is cabling as fast as it can and is working on a technology that may make phonelines compatible with ISDN."

Another videophone project is SignWorks, that uses high-resolution videophones, produced by Motion Media Technology, to support deaf people who run businesses.

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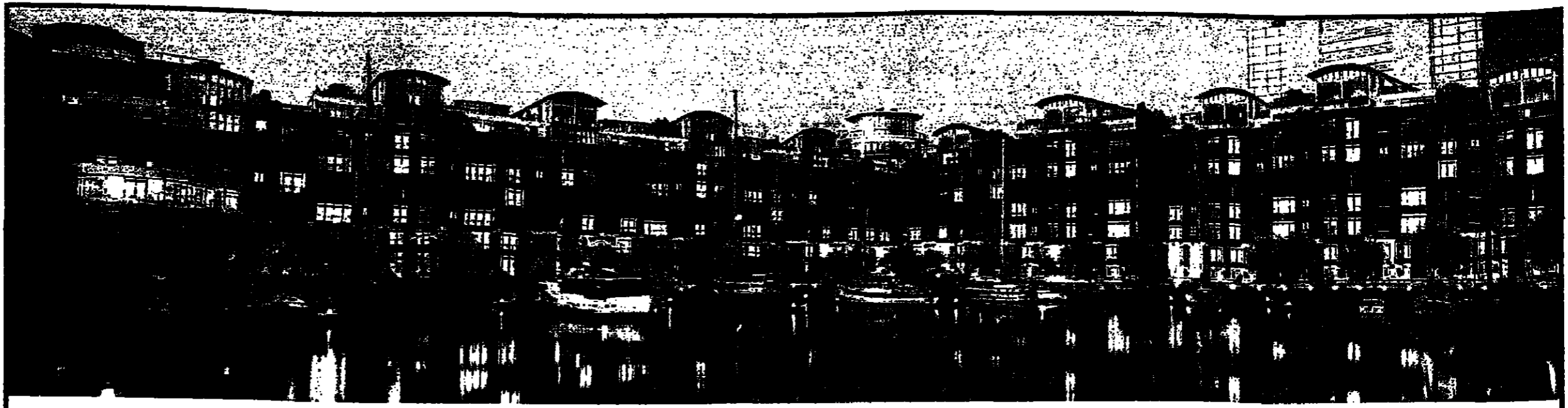
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Adam Barnard reports on a case that will help to protect consumers

A home and away win

The practices of dozens of property search firms are to come under review after a court ruled that a firm which charged a client £640 for expenses, despite failing to find her a country cottage to rent had broken the law.

Home Hunters, which specialises in locating rural retreats for city-dwellers, claimed that Leslie Farhangi, 36, owed £640.38 for expenses incurred when it sent her particulars of ten Cotswold cottages, all of which she rejected.



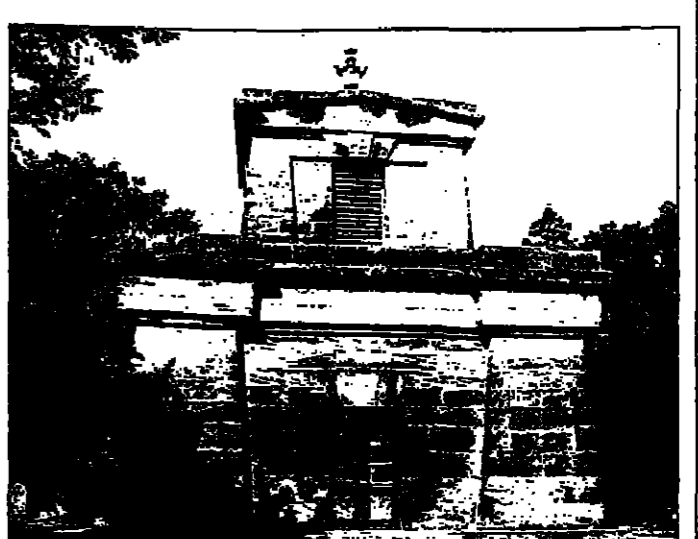
Jeremy Robinson, who runs the firm, in Kempsey, Worcestershire, said that he had based the figure on an hourly charge for his time, calculated by assuming that his annual income was £50,000. But a judge at West London County Court last week dismissed the firm's claim to force her to pay, saying that it had contravened the 1953 Accommodation Agencies Act and had failed to alert the client to an hourly fee.

Other property search firms said yesterday that they, too, would review their contracts. Michael Chetwode, of The County Homesearch Company, which has 22 offices in the UK and four overseas, said: "We charge a £500 registration fee, which is non-refundable. We may also charge some expenses should the client terminate, which we discuss before the contract is signed. We will be reviewing our contracts, with our solicitors, as soon as possible. Obviously, we do not want to break the law."

High Dunsmore-Hardy, of the National Association of Estate Agents, said: "The Act prohibits agents charging for providing a list of properties to let. That is how it affects agents in the business of letting. "Members of our association would have been aware of that, but Home Hunters was not a member. "We think the ruling was absolutely correct. If any agents flout the law, they must expect to lose a claim and be looked into by the local trading standards authority."

Take a lease on an ancient mausoleum

Now we can all rest in style, says Christopher Woodward



Trentham mausoleum: a ten-year lease costs £200 to £500

In England only the upper classes have ancestors, someone once said. The rest of us have dead relatives. Thanks to the fashion for converting country houses into flats, it is easy enough to sleep in a duke's bedroom. But to be buried beside him?

Stoke-on-Trent council is acquiring the Duke of Sutherland's mausoleum at Trentham, south of Stoke. It is one of 14 mausoleums listed in English Heritage's new register of buildings at risk. The family abandoned its ancestral mausoleum when the adjacent mansion, Trentham Hall, was demolished at the beginning of this century. Citizens of Stoke will soon be able to place their ashes in a niche inside the Grade I mausoleum: a ten-year lease costs between £200 and £500. Each niche will have a plaque, and the building will be restored and opened to the public with a book of remembrance for relatives to sign.

The revival of Trentham gives a glimmer of hope for the dozens of ancestral mausoleums that stand derelict in our churchyards and landed estates. A mausoleum is not just a monument: it is a house for the dead. The most celebrated example is the mausoleum that Nicholas Hawksmoor designed for Castle Howard in 1729. The Howards are still buried in their mausoleum, but such continuity is rare. Research suggests that as many as half of the 220 listed mausoleums in England are redundant, and that many of these need urgent repairs. Prompted by this, the Mausoleums and Monuments Trust (MMT) was formed in 1996 and now has five mausoleums in its care: the Bateman family's at Morley, Derbyshire; the Guise's at Elmhor, Gloucestershire; the Wynn Ellis's

and the Nash's at Whitstable and Farningham, both in Kent; and the Heathcote's at Hursley in Hampshire. In most cases the mausoleums were forgotten when a family left the village: a new family can move into the house, but not into their predecessors' burial place, and even when a family does remain, the repair of the mausoleum is often the last priority. A parish church has no legal responsibility to maintain a mausoleum in its churchyard: it is the responsibility of the heirs. If they are unable to act, the structure's only hope is the involvement of a wider community — or a body such as the MMT.

These windowless palaces more than qualify as heritage SHOULD we let the aristocracy look after their own ancestors? However just this would be in social terms, it would be a disaster for our architectural heritage. Christopher Woodward writes. Such an attitude allowed the demolition of a country house every week in the 1950s, a destruction poignantly recalled in John Harris's *No Voice from the Hill*. Like country houses, mausoleums were some of the most impressive and innovative buildings of their age. Does England have pyramids? Yes, and they are mausoleums: at Cobham Hall in Kent, at Bickling in Norfolk, and Mad Jack Fuller's tomb at Brightling in Sussex. The mausoleum was a chance for an architect to experiment with "pure form". Fortunately, a stone pyramid without windows or gutters is cheap to maintain and repair. Mausoleums do not need to be cleaned and polished to National Trust standards. The structure must be sound, its sculpture preserved and the bodies inside

protected from vandals, but a few wisps of ivy, moss and lichen only add to its charm. But what can be done with mausoleums once they are restored? Some have ornamental interiors which could be opened to the public, but in many instances, all we can do is stand and stare. The mausoleum at Trentham, near Stoke-on-Trent, squats by the roadside, a location inspired by the great Roman tombs which lined the Via Appia, inscribed with the words *Siste Viator... pause, traveller, and contemplate mortality.* For further information on the MMT, write to 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6DX.

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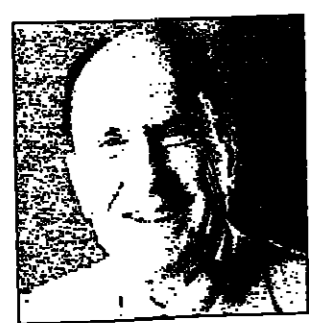
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FILM Duvall the director, star and writer PAGE 41

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE Women on top in Doug Lucie's play PAGE 42



Now the good news from Russia

What is the refined, classical-music word for "gob-smacked"? Whatever it is, I was it. Last Thursday I sat in a drawing room in Moscow and listened — first with incredulity, then with something dangerously close to elation — as a succession of Russian kids ran through their party pieces. But these were no ordinary party pieces, nor ordinary kids. Ferocious Rachmaninov preludes were hurled out by the fistful. A Bach partita was fiddled into exquisite life by a bespectacled wisp of a boy. A Vivaldi recorder concerto flashed by, powered with mercurial exuberance by a lad hardly bigger than his own instrument. And the avant-garde snorts and snarls of a contemporary Russian composer were essayed with supreme confidence by a 14-year-old girl on the saxophone. The intensity and passion exhibited in this amazing parade were what hit me most forcefully. Go into any specialist music school in the world and you can hear technically accomplished prodigies rattling out their repertoire. But this was different. These Russian kids play as if every note is a matter of life and death. Perhaps it is. In the impoverished chaos of post-Communist Russia, a supreme musical talent remains one of the few hard currencies: a route upwards; a rare source of joy in a glum land.

In Moscow Richard Morrison reports on a dazzling new generation of Russian teenage musical prodigies, performing in London later this month

tries for the cream of the rising artistic talent — not only instrumental prodigies, but dancers, singers and painters as well. Only the brightest are invited to audition. And of them, a mere four in every hundred are offered the scholarships, travel grants, summer schools and free instruments that the organisation can provide. It's a ruthlessly elitist scheme: children who don't develop well are simply dropped. But its organisers make no apology for that. "We have a saying in Russia," says Nina Makarova, one of the music professors managing New Names. "It's the talented who need help: the talented will always be able to make themselves comfortable." This month, five of New Names' stunning young musicians are being presented in concert at the Barbican. Every generation of Western music-lovers discovers and lionises its own Russian virtuosos. For our grandparents it was Horowitz and Heifetz; for our parents, Oistrakh, Rostropovich and Richter. In our own day, Bashmet, Kissin and Vengerov have maintained the proud tradition. The curious will crowd into the Barbican

on June 16 in the hope of hearing the new Horowitz, or a Heifetz for the 21st century. They won't feel short-changed. Some New Names scholarship holders are already mature artists. The 20-year-old clarinetist Igor Fedorov, who plays with a potent mixture of explosive energy and unflinching control, already has lucrative solo engagements in the West. "For them, I normally charge £1,200 per performance," he says. "I must support my family." His father, a chorus singer in the Bolshoi Opera for the past 20 years, earns just £50 a week. Fedorov will be coming to the Barbican, as will a wonderfully subtle 19-year-old pianist called Alexander Gindin, who sails through Rachmaninov with terrific panache. Three years ago he became one of the youngest prizewinners ever in the Tchaikovsky Competition. But the other Barbican performers are much younger. The pianist Juliana Avdeeva is just 12, though she has already won prizes at two international competitions. Her parents thought long and hard before putting her in for the hothouse training of the celebrated Gnessin School of Music in

Take the case of Gaik Gazaryan, a frighteningly poised 15-year-old violinist who is coming to the Barbican. His family uprooted and made the vast trek from Armenia to Moscow two years ago, solely in order for Gaik to study at the Conservatoire. His father, an electronics engineer, would have studied music himself as a boy, but was forced into a more "useful" profession. "I have tried to give my son what I couldn't have," he says. Another New Names prodigy, a 12-year-old pianist called Olga Kozlova — who plays Beethoven with a fervour that would be remarkable coming from a performer twice her age — had to be given special financial support. Both her parents are blind.

The difficulties are multiplying daily. There are two great music schools in Moscow: the Gnessin and the Conservatoire's Central Music School. Last week the Ministry of Culture decided that the latter will probably close; the money is simply not there. It has existed for 100 years. For its pupils, including the 14-year-old cellist Alexander Bouzlov (the last of the Barbican performers) the news is disastrous. "We are not even thinking about staying in Moscow," says Nikolaus, his father, a language teacher. "Most of the best Russian cello teachers are working in the West already." Contemplating an ever-wobblier rouble, income tax at 70 per cent and interest rates at 150 per cent, Nikolaus Bouzlov sees his son's future hanging by a thread. "Our only chance now is a grant for Alexander to travel abroad to a good teacher."

The prospect of Russia's finest performers, music professors and child prodigies defecting westward is nothing new, of course. The wandering Russian virtuoso has been a feature of Western musical life for a century or more. Nor is there any chance of the supply of Slavonic musical geniuses suddenly drying up. My own observations convinced me that the reservoir of talent is pretty well bottomless. The real danger is that Russia's magnificent, feisty prodigies — cocooned and smothered for so long under the Soviet system — will now wither in poverty and obscurity. The New Names initiative throws them a lifeline. It's the best news to come out of Russia this year. These kids are something special. Go and judge for yourself.



From Red Square to the Barbican: the young musical prodigies Alexander Iouzlov, Juliana Avdeeva, Gaik Gazaryan and Igor Fedorov step out for their London date

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CHANGING TIMES

OPERA: Simon Keenlyside tells Hilary Finch about an all-dancing L'Orfeo

With the hoofers in Hades

The rehearsal schedules had changed yet again. Calvi muscles had been torn. And the sackbus of Hades were tuning morosely in the royal box. The heating power of Orpheus and his lute certainly seemed to be blocked. But then a full moon rose, and a man fell to earth. The spheres were reuned; the singing began. And Monteverdi's music itself gradually started to become visible in movement. The American choreographer Trisha Brown has something of a reputation for creating dance on rooftops, on the edge of Manhattan buildings — even up and down ladders. But with Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, which arrives in London today after opening in Brussels at La Monnaie, Brown makes her debut as an opera director. Four years ago she created her first work to classical music: a 55-minute dance set to Bach's *Musical Offering* was quickly followed by *Twelve Tone Rose* for Webern. For *Orfeo*, though, Brown has had to create an entirely new movement vocabulary, capable of reinforcing the emotional power of the music without interfering with the performers' ability to sing. The English baritone Simon Keenlyside, cast in the title role, found himself being drawn into workshops, classes and rehearsals over a period of eight months with ten dancers from Brown's company. "And they know the entire piece inside out. All the words. I only wish they did more of the dancing themselves. But Trisha has deferred so much to the singers. She is so

considerate — and so extraordinarily inventive." Francesco Gonzaga, at the court of Mantua, had commissioned Monteverdi to write *L'Orfeo* as entertainment for the carnival season of 1607. In an archetypal moment of *deus ex machina* flamboyance, the opera customarily ends with the heavens opening and the apotheosis of Orfeo in the company of Apollo, Eurydice and other heavenly bodies. But at the very first performance things were darker. Monteverdi's libretto clung closer to the original myth and had Orfeo torn to pieces by the Bautochantes. I shan't tell you how, but Brown cunningly enjoys the best — and the worst — of both worlds. "Behind every move we make," says Keenlyside, "there's a lifetime of experience. Brown is a real master. I

find myself reflecting, discussing things that I couldn't even begin to address with most directors or musicians. I can honestly say I've never enjoyed the whole process so much before." This is also Keenlyside's first Monteverdi opera. "It's like chamber music that's what I love about it. You have to pace yourself and listen to yourself as you would in a recital. There are times when you're totally naked, as it were, singing to the accompaniment of a single lute." René Jacobs is the master of music, and the players and singers of his Concerto Vocale and Collegium Vocale must be every bit as formidable as colleagues as Brown's dance company. "Well, yes. They know you're not one of them, and you're absolutely OK about it. As long as you can produce

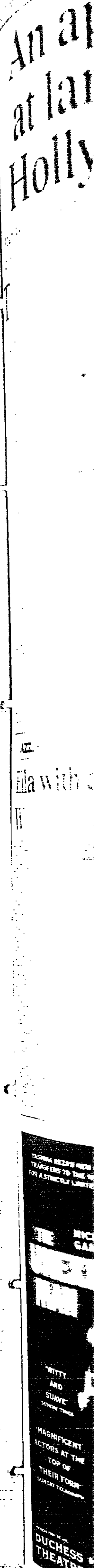
something that's truly interesting. Jacobs is one of the few remaining old-fashioned specialists. We're all spread so thinly these days. Only when you work with someone of his calibre do you realise what you've been missing." Keenlyside is never happier than when talking about someone other than himself. In fact, these are just about the only conditions in which this elusive baritone will agree to be interviewed at all. Ask him about his own career — which has spanned Coeur Almaviva, Pelleas, Figaro, Guglielmo, Papageno, Yeltsky, in Geneva, San Francisco, Sydney, Berlin, Paris, New York, Covent Garden, to say nothing of Schubert, Schumann, Wolf — and he will reply, "Oh, we can do that in five minutes. I really never expect to be singing in any of those places. I just love singing. That's all there is to it. But I don't want it to take over my life. If the balance gets wrong, there's no point. Singing's a reflection of life, that's all."

And life for Keenlyside is every bit as much about long silent walks in West Wales and travelling in India — in the drenching heart of the monsoon season if at all possible. "If there's too much singing and not enough life, you simply run out of things to sing about." In his current incarnation as Orfeo, that seems to be just about the remotest possibility of them all.



Simon Keenlyside: "If there's too much singing and not enough life, you simply run out of things to sing about"

Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* runs at the Barbican Theatre from today until Saturday at 7.15pm (0171-638 8891). Simon Keenlyside is at the Wigmore Hall on June 20.



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An apostle at large in Hollywood

Matt Wolf meets Robert Duvall, the Oscar-winning actor who turned writer and director for his latest film

There are some things one just doesn't expect from the American cinema, and a serious film about religion could be said to be among them. One can readily imagine a patronising response to the topic made by a scornful New York liberal elite or, conversely, a rabble-rousing statement backed by the Religious Right. Robert Duvall's *The Apostle*, amazingly, is neither: it is a moving and passionate film that respects its highly charged subject without sentimentalising it. And it cost its writer-director-star nearly \$5 million of his own money to make.

"It's been accepted by the secular hip community — the film people — and by the religious people as well, and they're the toughest," says the 67-year-old Duvall. "I feel I'm a better person for making the movie; there's a certain sense of accomplishment that maybe I've made something that matters."

In March Duvall was a dark-horse favourite to win the best actor Oscar for his stirring performance as Sonny Dewey, otherwise known as the Apostle, an evangelical Texan who takes to the road (he ends up in Cajun territory in Louisiana) after bashing his wife's lover with a baseball bat. Duvall lost the Oscar to fellow veteran Jack Nicholson for a film, *As Good As It Gets*, that Duvall says he hasn't even seen. "I wait for the videos," he says of his attitude to seeing movies.

But despite his also-ran Oscar status, he secured a place as an American auteur who may come closer than he realises to justifying the oft-quoted claim that Duvall, whose films include *The Godfather* and *Apocalypse Now*, is "the American Olivier". "That was nice, you know,"

"I believe in Jesus Christ and His teachings"

the actor says modestly of the compliment. "It's nice to be compared to any talent." But what the accolade prompts mostly in an impromptu (and hilariously spot-on) impersonation of his esteemed co-star in both *The Seven Percent Solution* and, less memorably, *The Betsy*. "Here we are in Hardiman Manor in Michigan," quotes Duvall, sending up Olivier at his hammiest in the 1978 film based on Harold Robbins's potboiler. "Oh, sorry, love," Duvall reports Olivier asking, "what's my next line?"

Duvall, for his part, has spoken as many lines as he seems to have had careers, starting out as an off-Broadway theatre actor amid the vibrant New York stage of the 1950s — he was in the original

cast of Arthur Miller's *A View From the Bridge* — and making his screen debut in the 1962 film, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, as the charismatic Boo Radley who spooks Gregory Peck's children. *Mockingbird* won an Oscar for its writer, Horton Foote, and the same Southern-er brought Duvall himself an Oscar in 1983 for playing the mendicant country singer on the mend in *Tender Mercies*.

But if the American South is in Duvall's blood — he sold his Manhattan apartment four years ago in favour of a Virginia farmhouse built in 1745 — the actor admits that he has never participated in anything like *The Apostle*. After all, it is not easy to please hard-boiled film critics as well as the zealot Pat Robertson.

"I wondered about guys like that," says Duvall, who first had the idea for his movie when a Hollywood film on a similar topic, *The Kingdom*, fell through for financial reasons some 15 years ago. "My feeling was, if you don't make a Bible movie or a miracle play, which can be corny, I don't know if they're going to accept it." In the event, no less a figure than Billy Graham called *The Apostle* "a compass pointing toward the 21st century," reports Duvall, while Robertson apparently said: "I don't know how you came up with all of this stuff; you addressed a lot of deep theological questions." So then I said, "I hung around you guys and learnt a lot."

Duvall himself comes from a Protestant background, and



Robert Duvall looks at rushes on the set of *The Apostle*: "There's a certain sense of accomplishment that maybe I've made something that matters"

facile judgments. "But I think people are going to have a rude awakening when this existence is over; the afterlife isn't going to be quite as literal as they may think. I believe in more of a mental continuation."

He also believes in an eclectic diet of work, even if he has not acted on stage since the Broadway run of David Mamet's *American Buffalo* some two decades ago. Now, he says, "I don't go to the theatre much."

Away from the likes of *The Apostle*, Duvall remains an actor for hire: he plays the adventuresome, if ageing, astronaut in Mimi Leder's current *Deep Impact*, the disaster film whose \$115 million gross so far at the American box office represents the sorts of financial returns *The Apostle*

could never hope to achieve. And he appears with John Travolta and Stephen Fry in the forthcoming *A Civil Action*.

But it is the projects he is nursing that he speaks of with his own apostolic fervour. Among them are a film about a Scottish football club, in which Duvall would play the coach, and a directorial effort linking today's tango — one of his great passions — to the Big Band era of the 1950s. And then there is a film to be made about the four sisters of his Argentine girlfriend, Luciana Pedraza, who is four decades his junior. "It's as interesting as any Chekhov play," Duvall laughs, adding softly, "I've got a lot more things I want to do."

● *The Apostle* opens in Britain on June 12

JAZZ: Probably the best straight-ahead jazz singer in the world; Barber and Lurie do the anniversary waltz

Ella with a spot of Ginger

Was there a jazz critic in the house, Dee Dee Bridgewater asked as she began another of the knockabout routines peppered throughout her two-hour tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. The implication being, of course, that the jazz police are a solemn bunch who think all concerts should be as high-minded in their approach as Lieders recitals.



Bridgewater had a point, and it was obvious that a large part of the audience relished her broad humour and the rambling monologues about her urgent need to go to the lavatory. Like Carmen Lundy, she attracts a fashionable young audience — a welcome change from all those dour jazzers — who are as likely to be caught listening to soul singer Anita Baker as Sarah Vaughan.

Yet the suspicion remains that, not for the first time in her long career, the American singer risks selling herself short. While she is still stunningly attractive — she mixes

genuous slow reading of *Stairway to the Stars* had to be interrupted by her curious imitation of a muted trumpet. True, Fitzgerald liked to have fun with songs too — remember the likes of *A-Tisket, A-Tasket*? But I doubt that her *éminence grise*, the canny Norman Granz, would have allowed her quite as much leeway as this.

Time shows the wiser

Elizabeth Hall the nine Lizards — a three-four-horn front line, plus a cellist, pianist and rhythm section — give their all. They eschew the usual jazz conventions in favour of an approach perfectly attuned to contemporary audiences: rampant eclecticism, presented with swagger and panache, but undercut with enough irony and self-parody to render it modish as well as musically stimulating.

Band members drifted on and off the stage as the music dictated, leaving, at various times, Brazilian percussionist Mauro Refonco to perform a *berimbau* feature, Tony Scherr to produce a rollicking but tight bass contribution, or Jane Scarpantoni to bow and pluck a vigorous cello improvisation. In between, the Lizards produced a thunderous wall of sound, leavened by Lurie's stridently wailing or restlessly staccato saxophone.

Creature comforts

TWO years ago Siouxsie Sioux announced that she was folding the Banshees "with dignity", a barbed comment on the Sex Pistols reunion tour which was winding its cynical way around Britain. Since then she has concentrated on the Creatures, the side project first launched with her drummer husband Budgie in 1981. These two London shows were a warm-up before a two-month American tour, preceding a single in July and an album in the autumn.

The denizens of the London night turned out in force in their latex and leather and they were not disappointed. Against a shimmering backdrop, a PVC-clad Siouxsie strutted her feline stuff while Budgie manufactured a percussive storm behind her.

YASMINA REZA'S NEW COMEDY TRANSFERS TO THE WEST END FOR A STRICTLY LIMITED SEASON

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 TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

WRITTEN BY MATTHEW WILKINSON
 DIRECTED BY MARK THOMPSON
 COSTUME DESIGNER HILARY WINTSTONE

'WITTY AND SUAVE'
 SUNDAY TIMES

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WILLIAM SCHUMAN'S Third Symphony is an orchestral showpiece whose virtuosity exceeds even that of Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra or Tippett's symphonies — and it takes an orchestra of the calibre of the LSO to do it justice. It is the sort of stringently constructed, technically demanding and expressively open-hearted music that this orchestra performs with panache, bringing a brilliance rooted in precision to every slab of primary colour.

In the Toccata, the LSO cellists, led by the fine soloist Moray Welsh, threatened to outdo the entire string section with a display alternately resonant and dazzling, and raised the biggest cheer from the audience. Previn shaped a seamless and compelling performance until the work's all-too-abrupt end.

While William Schuman (1910-1992) began his career playing in jazz bands and writing popular songs until his conversion to serious composition, Previn has miraculously kept every one of his many talents active throughout his career, from jazz pianist to conductor to composer of the popular — and the mildly arcane. His facility is legendary, but facile describes much of his "concert" composition, and he freely admits to writing for the moment, not for posterity.

HELEN WALLACE

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

DAVID FARR

Age: 28
 Occupation: Writer/director (theatre).
 Theatrical influences and mentors: None.
 So is he some kind of bolt from the blue? Hardly, he hasn't really had time to draw breath since his company Talking Tongues won the Guardian Student Drama Award at the Edinburgh Festival in 1991.

Talking Tongues, the name sounds familiar... They went on to perform at the National Theatre. Farr subsequently became artistic director of the Gate in London, where he directed 12 acclaimed productions. In his spare time he knocked off a couple of plays of his own. *Neville Southall's Washbag* (1991) and *Max Klapper: A Life in Pictures* (1996).

Any good? Director Giles Croft was so impressed by *Neville Southall's Washbag* that he commissioned Farr to write another football play, this time about Watford FC; the result is *Elton John's Glasses*, which opens next week in the West End.

Watford? That must lack a little poetry after all the Lorea and Wedekind? After directing European theatre at the Gate, Farr was actually thrilled to do a play about beer and footie. "I wanted to write a very British play. I have come to love my country, which is a revelation to me."

So it's goodbye to all that pretentious foreign smuck then? No. Farr is sad that such a strong distinction exists in Britain between arty, European-style drama and native comic realism. "I am hoping that the divide will cease to exist in the next few years, and I would like to be part of it."

HETTIE JUDAH

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LISTINGS

Dame Ninette celebrated

LONDON

THE DOCTOR'S DILEMMA: The splendid cast for Michael Grandage's dramatic debut includes Victoria Hamilton, Paddy Byrne, Tony Britton, Martin Jones, Ian McDiarmid, Almeida, 106 Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Tues-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The Birmingham Royal Ballet celebrates the centenary of its founder, Dame Ninette de Valois. Story and Tony Haygarth in this exceptionally interesting drama about the life of Ninette de Valois and an almost all-white pairing. Wyndham's, Canning Circus Road, WC2 (0171-389 1726). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hergie. With a triple bill featuring Frederick Ashton's Symphonic Variations, de Valois's own The Prospero Balcony, and a new work by David Bintley, set to a score by John Tavener.



Courtney Pine blows sax in Manchester

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre events in London. House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

LONG RUNNERS

WCS (0171-379 5393). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed and Sat 3pm. SHOW BOAT: Hal Prince's spectacularly lavish musical production, with Michel Ball as Joe and George Grizzard as Cap'n Andy. Palace Theatre, 108 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-447 5400). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Thu and Sat, 2.30pm.

ARTS

Give a bitch a bad name

You do not need to be a confirmed misogynist to find pleasure in Doug Lucie's new play. You could be veering towards misogyny but in need of clinching details. After witnessing how Lucie's two women reduce their men to despairing, grief-stricken wrecks you might well feel that detesting the entire female sex is nothing less than vital self-preservation.



The lovelorn Ros (Miranda Foster) and monstrous Shelley (Susannah Doyle) in Doug Lucie's Love You, Too

THEATRE

anyone likely to give them a good time, sucking out the life-blood and blithely moving on. Women as formerly complaisant as Ros may also exist, for ever supporting the interests of a friend, provided the friend is female. But however convincing, even amusing, Lucie's two men may be when talking about music, politics or football, their imbecile inability to read the motives of their women destroys the credibility of the play.

character of Mick, played with a hungry anger by Sam Graham, is the only consistently decent person on the stage. He displays his good taste and judgment when patiently explaining that no, Oasis are not the new Beatles: they are how the Beatles would have been with Ringo in charge.

Susannah Doyle's Shelley. Doyle makes a neat job of presenting the character's insidious charm, up to a point, and her artful fakeries, up to the same point, this point being where her wickedness becomes obvious to an audience yet continues unperceived by her victims.

childless woman in a society teeming with babies, is never explored. Lucie refers to their boy-mad school years, but this comes nowhere near showing us why Ros has not tossed her out with the hockey stick.

cover in front of an inset shelf. Mike Bradwell directs. Inside the limits Lucie's text allows him to present the virtues of the male characters and the vices of the females. But the scales are so weighted that the play comes across as a work fuelled and damaged by personal vengeance.

Doomed to relegation

SINCE Arthur Smith's An Evening With Gary Lineker and Nick Hornby's Fever Pitch, we have got used to the idea that football might be more important than theatre itself. If proof is needed, one need only potter along to the West End next week to see Elton John's Glasses, a gloriously bleak farce by "Great British Hope" David Farr (see page 4) about the suicidal tribulations of a Watford FC fanatic.

Parables from Persia

icton Oliver's new play is not really in the same league. Produced on a shoestring by ARC Theatre, it reveals little that is not already known about football racism, apart from the surprising fact that there is not a single Asian player in the British game.

Conference of the Birds

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Chaucer, Dante and pretty much any other spiritual allegorist one might care to think of.

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NEW RELEASES

AFTERGLOW (15): Two interlocking couples search for happiness. Quirky and moving romantic comedy. Directed by Alan Rudolph. Screenplay by Alan Rudolph and Nick Nolte. Director, Alan Rudolph. Cast: Nick Nolte, Holly Hunter, John Cusack, John Goodman. UCI Whiteley (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)

Plains Jane became a struggling under a domineering father. D.J. pretty version of Henry James' novel. With Jeremy Irons, Jason Patric, Albert Finney and Ben Chaplin. Director, Angeline Holland. Berkeley (0171-389 1726). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

THE REAL BELONDE (15)

Patchy but unmissable sequel-up of the media world from director Tom Di Carlo. With John Goodman and Catherine Keener. Clapham Picture House (0171-468 3222). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (PG)

Disney's animated classic. Directed by Kirk Walker. Cast: Paige Turner, John Goodman, Paige Turner. UCI Whiteley (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

THE UNEXPECTED MAN (PG)

Directed by Harold Prince. Now back on stage. Directed by Harold Prince. Now back on stage. Directed by Harold Prince. Now back on stage.

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RUGBY UNION

Five-try Scotland win at a canter

Scotland XV beat England XV 28-10 in a match that was a one-sided affair. Scotland's attack was in full flow, scoring five tries in the first half. England's defence was overwhelmed, and they were unable to score. The match was a significant victory for Scotland, who have been struggling in the recent years.

England call in respected coach to prepare for Test series

Cottam will put bowlers through their paces

Michael Henderson talks to a man with a tough reputation but who gets results

Bob Cottam was stuck in a traffic jam two weeks ago when he took a call on his mobile phone. David Lloyd, the England coach, was ringing from Windermere, where members of the England and Wales Cricket Board had convened for a weekend get-together, and he wanted to know whether Cottam would like to be involved in the Test set-up.

Yesterday, on the ground where he was once the Warwickshire chief coach and where he continues to act as a freelance bowling adviser, in conjunction with his work in a similar capacity at Gloucestershire, Cottam began work with the England fast bowlers.

'He is not a diplomat, but he is a players' man'

Cottam knows the other England bowlers only by reputation. As a fast-medium bowler himself, with Hampshire and Northamptonshire, who played four times for England, he is a member of the same club.

"I'm not a magician," Cottam said. "Fast bowling is not an exact science. It is a case of suck it and see. If you were to take the best 20 you've ever seen, they would all have different actions. There are plenty of bowlers around who need a bit of fine tuning." And that, he says, is where he comes in, for the two days before each Test match.

Although he is many years senior to the men he will be



Cottam will try to inspire Dominic Cork, who relaxes after practice yesterday

looking after, Cottam, like Peter Lever, the bowling coach that Raymond Illingworth, then chairman of selectors, brought in four years ago, has been involved in cricket since his own playing days ended. He has been credited with laying the foundations for Warwickshire's glory days, although, in retrospect, it might have been better to have stayed away from Taunton, where Peter Anderson rules the roost as chief executive — and that is the kind of figurehead that Cottam can happily live without.

Sri Lankan selectors decide on experience

By Our Sports Staff

SHAKEN by a humiliating defeat at the hands of New Zealand in the first Test, Sri Lanka have recalled Hashan Tillekeratne and Kumar Dharmasena for the second Test to add much-needed strength to their middle-order batting.

The experienced pair are back in a 15-man squad after a dismal batting performance saw Sri Lanka suffer a 167-run defeat in the first Test. The second game of the series begins today in the southern city of Galle, which is staging a Test for the first time.

Simon Doull, the New Zealand pace bowler, has been ruled out after aggravating a hamstring injury. His place is likely to go to Shayne O'Conner, the left-arm fast bowler, while the rest of the side is expected to remain unchanged.

Tillekeratne, who has played in 50 Test matches, is almost certain to go straight into the starting line-up in place of Ruwan Kalpage, the all-rounder, who performed well below standard in the first Test.

Dharmasena's chances depend on whether Sri Lanka opt to continue with Pramodya Wickremasinghe acting as their lone pace bowler. If so, the off-spinner is likely to play in place of Malinga Bandara, who failed to take a wicket.

Michael DiVenuto was appointed captain of the Australia A squad yesterday to tour Scotland and Ireland this summer. The side, which will be coached by Allan Border, the former Australia Test captain, will play two three-day games and five one-day matches in Scotland before travelling to Ireland for one three-day fixture and five one-day matches. Australian players playing in English county cricket this season were not considered.

Surrey face stern test of resources

By Simon Wilde

SURREY are nothing if not unpredictable. This time last year, they sat equal-last in the Britannic Assurance county championship; now they are 14 points clear at the top.

It is early days to be acclaiming any team champions-in-waiting — in Surrey's case, very early days indeed — but many eyes will be on events at the Oval today to see if the pitch shows the same signs of helping Saqlain Mustaq and Ian Salisbury, the home side's in-form pair of spinners, as the last one did for the game against Kent. That contest ended in little more than two days as Saqlain and Salisbury claimed 13 wickets on a ground that has been the death of many a slow bowler in recent times.

Surrey may meet sterner resistance in Worcestershire, who have Graeme Hick seeking a fourth championship hundred in a row and several other batsmen in prime form. If Hick is serious about getting back into the England team, he needs runs in this important match.

Salisbury's improved accuracy is pushing him, too, back into England contention and, if he earns his first recall since moving to the Oval last year, it will add to the pressure on his team's resources. With the first Test match against South Africa starting tomorrow, Surrey must do without Stewart Thorpe and Butcher. Barry Shalby and Ratcliffe stand in.

Play in the match starts an hour later than normal on each day as part of a general experiment to see if later finishes increase attendances. Northampton, where Lancashire are the visitors, also stages noon starts on the first three days.

Kent, dismissed for 86 and 226 at the Oval, lick their wounds at Tunbridge Wells and plan to take out their feelings on Sussex, who lie an improbable second, three places above their hosts. Kent themselves have to contend with England calls, with Igglesden and Thompson — who has played only one first-test match this season — stepping in for Balham and Headley.

Sussex are set to become the first county to install permanent floodlights at their ground. The club, which announced four months ago that it was considering leaving its traditional home in Hove, has submitted a planning application to erect four 32-metre towers in the corners to provide lighting for day/night games.

TABLE

Team	P	W	L	D	N	Pts
Surrey (5)	5	3	1	16	16	63
Sussex (18)	5	2	1	8	19	62
Derbyshire (16)	5	2	3	8	16	56
Kent (2)	5	1	2	4	15	51
Leicestershire (4)	5	1	2	9	10	57
Gloucestershire (10)	4	2	2	8	10	56
Worcestershire (7)	4	2	2	7	14	53
Warwickshire (9)	4	1	3	11	11	47
Nottinghamshire (1)	4	1	2	8	16	46
Northants (15)	5	1	3	1	18	41
Lancashire (11)	4	1	2	8	10	40
Worcestershire (4)	4	1	2	7	14	40
Northants (15)	4	1	3	5	9	38
Somerset (12)	4	1	2	5	11	35
Essex (8)	3	0	3	5	14	22
Hampshire (14)	3	0	1	2	3	7

(Last year's positions in brackets)

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'Reliance on a man whose powers were palpably waning was a slight on the rest'

Hoddle right to exorcise ghost of Gascoigne past

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN LA MANGA

THROUGH the rage of words and the blitz of distressing and pathetic images that the omission of Paul Gascoigne spawned, a clarity of thought and a firmness of purpose has begun to emerge. There is again a sense of progress about the England team and its quest for the World Cup that seemed somehow to have faded in the months between qualification in Rome and the momentous announcement of the final squad on Sunday night.

Last October, a belief that England could win the tournament for the first time in 32 years coursed through the squad and the country. It was not just because the team had achieved a goalless draw with Italy in Rome, but reflected the manner in which it was achieved, the solidity of the performance and the determination and style of the players. At last, they seemed to be emulating the carry play of Europe's finest.

The tactics were right and some of the best players were at the top of their game. Gascoigne was magnificent that night, the very model of control and skill: still not the player he had been in 1990, but hinting that he was on the verge of recapturing the old magic. Ian Wright was in top form for Arsenal. David Beckham was helping to inspire Manchester United's runaway lead in the FA Cup.



Gascoigne leaves home yesterday, his face betraying his failure to come to terms with his rejection by Hoddle

Ince was an inspirational captain.

Even though Glenn Hoddle, the national coach, and his team overcame Cameroon the following month, the momentum that they had built seemed to start slipping away. Injuries did not help. David Seaman was soon on the sidelines. Wright, too, and Alan Shearer was still absent.

The defeat against Chile at Wembley in February, the lacklustre draws with Switzerland and Saudi Arabia and the defeat to Belgium on penalties that sandwiched victories over Portugal and Morocco reconfirmed suspicions that while there could be no talk of a crisis, nor could there be real hope that England might appear in the World Cup final on July 12.

It seemed as though England were drifting back towards mediocrity. That just as their self-belief had been boosted by the victory in Le Tournoi last summer, so it had been drained by poor performances in a series of otherwise meaningless internationals. When experiments were tried, most of them failed.

It felt as though there needed to be an upheaval to shake them out of their apparent torpor and here last Sunday, on a dramatic night, the shock came. The omission of Gascoigne was an event that no one had expected, although many had forlornly called for it. For a day, perhaps, there

was a sense of stunned disbelief, but then the significance of what had happened began to sink in.

At a stroke, Hoddle seems to have mobilised opinion firmly behind him after a spell when his credibility had begun to be threatened by the mocking publicity he had received over his faith in Eliseo Drewery. Given the accounts concerning Gascoigne's drinking habits, even on the weekend of his demise, it is impossible to argue with Hoddle's decision.

Hoddle's ruthlessness, with a man whom many had thought was his favourite son, has encouraged those who had long thought that he was being compromised by a player whose wild and undisciplined habits had flown in the face of every tenet Hoddle had preached to the players who he would have made his disciples.

Some of Gascoigne's friends in the squad are thought to feel aggrieved about his treatment, but there is also a sizeable coterie who had grown increasingly alarmed about his lack of fitness and the effect that his unpredictable behaviour could have on morale. Senior players, in particular, are thought to have discussed the issue with Hoddle.

Tragic though his omission was for Gascoigne, one cannot help but feel as though an impediment has been removed from England's progress. Gascoigne had gradually come to represent the past and our reliance on a man whose powers were palpably waning was, in many ways, a slight on the rest of the country's talent.

Now, especially with the inclusion of Michael Owen and Rio Ferdinand and the likelihood that Paul Scholes will be handed the responsibility of becoming the creative midfield influence, there is an air of youthful optimism about the squad again, a sense of looking forward rather than back.

With his decision to drop Gascoigne, Hoddle has driven it home to the players just how deadly serious he is about winning, how he will stop at nothing to achieve his goal. In the first post-Gazza training session here on Monday morning, there was a new edge to the attitude of the players, a new bite in the tackles. Suddenly, with the start of the World Cup just a week away, the future seems bright again.



Sealed with a kiss: Gascoigne signals the start of the retreat from perfection after a night of drama in Turin

Slow descent from Turin peak

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

It was not the beginning, it was the end. It was not the base-camp, it was the peak. A star was not born; instead, we saw a comet at perihelion, as near to the sun as it was ever going to get. That was Gazza on that warm July evening eight years ago in Turin.

Gazza's goading and prompting and scolding, dictating the pace and winning his battle with Lothar Matthäus, of West Germany, using his strength, his skill and, above all, his bizarre and quirky temperament, as much an asset to his unguessable footballing intentions as it was to become a self-inflicted wound. A foolish tackle on Berthold earned him a yellow card, one that would have caused him to miss the final, had England got there.

That tackle, Gazza's first great public folly, was at once followed by his first great public fit of remorse — and it marks the point at which the wave broke and rolled back. Everything since that tackle has been a retreat from perfection. England's rapping of the post in extra time, the penalties and the entirety of the rest of his career.

Oh, there has been music in the air again, though briefly. Moments of glory. That goal against Scotland, the various

against Ireland: a crass piece of pseudo-courage, of impotent self-assertion. Did Gazza not like that?

We need not pursue the subsequent downs and ups of Gazza's career. Every newspaper this week has carried a list of them: that tackle, that goal, that drink, that scandal, that kebab. The important thing is that every peak has been lower than the one he reached in 1990, every trough deeper than the one that he touched with the tackle on Berthold.

The Gazza story is always seen as a morality play and the most obvious moral is the cruelty of sport. But there is a moral within that moral and it is the huge, wild and reckless generosity of sport.

That Gazza should have such gifts and such a field on which to express them. That any person should have a time of perfect fulfillment such as Gazza experienced in those few short weeks in which he strutted the greatest football of his life — the greatest football on anybody's life, for that matter, barring a dozen or so of the greatest of the greats.

What did Gazza do? He seized the day. *Carpe diem!* That is the real moral of the Gazza Morality Tale — the moral, if truth be known, of practically all of sport's sto-

ries. While we sit here gassing, mean old time ticks on. Tomorrow is not to be trusted. Seize the day!

The athlete's ability to seize his day is sport's besetting virtue. The pundit's and the coach's besetting sin is the wishing away of the sporting life — as if every victory were but preparation for next year's championship, next year's European Cup, the World Cup of four years' time, or eight.

In 1990, Gazza was supposed to have a great future before him. His day was seized all right. Since then, he has fought, at times heroically, against the inevitable decline, but he has not been able to arrest it.

Now we move on. *Gazzales, and turn to England.* Some believe that Michael Owen is a great player for the future. It is also true that some of us have felt a pricking at the back of the neck where Owen is concerned. Backs of necks can be wrong; we shall relish the chance to see what Owen can seize. For he is not a great player for the future. He is a player for right this minute. Seize the day! This is the only World Cup that matters. The only World Cup that has ever mattered. The one that is happening now.

World Cup-bound Durkin finds himself fully booked

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

PAUL DURKIN munches on a ham baguette and sips lager shandy in a corner of a Dorset pub. A short, stocky figure, striking only for his red hair, he could be any business-man enjoying a quiet, contemplative break from the office. The mobile phone rings, goes dead, then rings again.

"Hello, yes. How are you?" He gives directions to his home, on the Isle of Portland, and promises that his wife, Kim, will have the kettle on. "That was *The Big Breakfast*," he says. "They want to do a piece with me. Bit of fun, I suppose."

Since receiving confirmation that he would be the sole English referee at the World Cup finals, Durkin has enjoyed few uninterrupted lunches. Mornings, afternoons and evenings are similarly fragmented by the insatiable demands of the media. If

not on the A-list of potential interviewees, he is a hot B-plus — all 5ft 6in of him. *Under The Moon*, the cult chat show on Channel 4, also extended an invitation. "It was an opportunity to get over to people that I'm just an ordinary human being," he said. "As are most refs." Of the many late-night callers, 82.8 per cent wanted to speak to him.

Durkin, 42, has been photographed as a bewigged judge in a Sunday newspaper supplement and has held court on Radio 5 Live. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, sought his week-long guidance during recent training at Bisham Abbey, at which Durkin demonstrated the new tackling laws as decreed by Fifa, the sport's world governing body.

If England fall foul of the stricter interpretations in France, they cannot claim ignorance. "It was a great initiative by Glenn and the players were very receptive," Durkin said.

"It may be that the team with the best disciplinary record will win the tournament. If England can avoid all the needless cautions, they must have a good chance." The irony is not lost on him; the further England progress, the less are his chances of officiating in the later stages. Either way, he accepts that scrutiny of the 34 referees will be intense. "There's an awful lot of pressure on each individual to perform," he said.

Durkin does not mind the attention. He views it as acceptable baggage and is becoming more comfortable in his quasi-ambassadorial role. He handles requests courteously and questions diplomatically — unless a previous antagonist should again dare to darken his door. "One bloke rang up wanting a chat, but I told him where to go," he said. It is a rare glimpse of an insouciant, intolerant streak inherited from his father, Billy, a feisty

player with Bradford City, Rotherham United and Aldershot. Durkin Jr could also mix it during his younger days as a midfielder player with Portland United in the Dorset Senior League.

Bookings, then as now, featured prominently in his life, once resulting in a 14-day suspension and £4 fine. "The majority were for offering advice to referees," he said. "I tended to be a bit lippy." It lay uneasily with his other weekend pastime, refereeing. "I was dishing out cautions on Saturday and receiving them on Sunday. There was a conflict of interests and the county FA suggested it couldn't continue."

Dishing out cautions won the day, to the extent of booking his younger brother, Graham, during a youth match. "That was the end of it until I got home," Durkin said. "Graham told mum and I got a right roasting." One of his first dismissals was

reserved for a friend, Stuart Martindale, after a fracas. "He looked at me rather coyly, thinking I'd let him off," he said. "I didn't." Martindale and Durkin, a fleet administrator, now work together for a housing association in Dorchester.

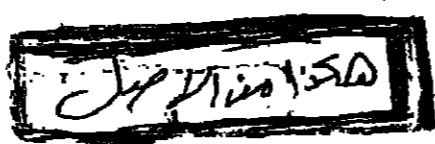
June, and perhaps July, will conclude a memorable season. He has taken charge of the FA Cup Final, the first leg of the Uefa Cup semi-final between Atlético Madrid and Lazio and the second leg of the European Cup semi-final between Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid.

Fringe benefits from World Cup duty will include a payment of \$25,000 (about £14,500), regardless of how many matches he is given, and made-to-measure jacket, trousers and shirt by Yves St Laurent. He can keep the jacket, too. "I should think so," he said. "I don't think it would fit anyone else."



Durkin: ambassador

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Chelsea set aside £5m to acquire versatility of Desailly

Large purse tempts high-quality field to France for Evian Masters as new season opens

Patricia Davies encounters cautious optimism among the European LPGA

The Women Professional Golfers' European Tour is defunct, its place taken by the European LPGA (Ladies' Professional Golf Association)...



Davies, left, will be looking to recover winning ways, but the likes of Nicholas, the US Women's Open champion, will provide tough opposition

skins excluded, plus one in Japan - and, at 34, her body may be less immune to jet lag. However, Evian is a good place to recharge and a record purse of £15 million...

fund from the £300,000 available last season. Lotman is unwilling to pay more until he is sure that the tour is secure - his main aim is to contribute as much as possible to children's charities...

which is a source of contention, but the class is unmistakable. Liselotte Neumann, No 1 on the United States money-list, is playing, along with a host of other American tour regulars including Lisa Hackney...



SCHEDULE

June 3-6: Evian Masters, Evian-les-Bains, France (prize-money: £15,000,000). July 16-18: Australian Open, Perth (prize-money: £250,000)...

Charlotte Sorenstam, Catrin Nilsmark, Helen Dobson, Catriona Matthew, Kathryn Marshall, Joanne Morley, Trish Johnson and Amy Alcott...

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT

In the Matter of Barings PLC (in liquidation) and In the Matter of Bishopsco (BB&Co.) Limited (in liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that by an Order dated 1st June 1998 made in the above matters the Court has directed separate meetings of the PLC Scheme Creditors...

- (a) the meeting of the PLC Scheme Creditors (other than as aforesaid) at 10.30 a.m. and (b) the meeting of the BB&Co Scheme Creditors (other than as aforesaid) at 10.45 a.m.

Any person entitled to attend the said meetings can obtain copies of the Scheme of Arrangement, copies of voting and proxy forms for use in relation to the said meetings...

By the said Order the Court has appointed Margaret Elizabeth Mills or failing her Alan Robert Bloom or failing him Nigel James Hamilton to act as Chairmen of each of the said meetings...

DATED 1st June, 1998 Slaughter and May, 35, Basinghall Street, London EC2V 3DB, (Ref: RLH)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BYETHEMAN, ADA BYETHEMAN (nee Jones) late of 10, St. James Street, London SE1 1JG died on 29 February 1998...

Amateurs add to Muirfield magic

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHETHER this turns out to be the best Amateur Championship by the time eight rounds of matchplay golf conclude on Saturday afternoon, only time will tell.

Though the weather was drab in this part of Scotland yesterday - the skies grey and overcast and a gusting wind blowing strongly into the faces of the gathered throng of players, media and spectators...

is not yet 18 but plays with the knowledge and wisdom of one twice his age, raised his game perceptibly in the second strokeplay qualifying round to return a 68 around Gullane No 1 and thus qualify comfortably for the matchplay stages.

There is a sense of being in the very heartland of golf as you travel east from Edinburgh along the coast road, past Longniddry, Approaching Muirfield, bisecting the splendour of the Luffness and Gullane No 2 courses...

There is real anticipation at the prospect of watching two of Europe's most promising young golfers competing in this competition. Justin Rose, who

year," Rose Jr, who recently finished 44th in the Benson and Hedges International Open at The Oxfordshire, said.

AMATEUR QUALIFIERS

GULLANE AND MUIRFIELD: 139: G Oghy (Aus) 72, 67 146: O David (Fr) 68, 77 145: A Wainwright (Gart) 73, 74, 147: J Morrison (Sc) 72, 75, 147: Gawn (US) 73, 74, 147: W Bryson (Ire) 73, 75, 148: C Edwards (Ire) 72, 77, 149: B Kopal (US) 74, 76, 150: M Innes (Ir) 75, 74, 149: W Thomas (US) 76, 77: W Taylor (US) 73, 80, 153: G Lawson (Auch) 80, 73, 153: K Law (For) 80, 77, 157: K Wall (Kor) 80, 81, 161: R Conn (US) 80, 83

SPORT IN BRIEF

Knowle gets the nod

■ CYCLING: A new course for the 130-mile British road race championship on July 5 was agreed yesterday when Solihull Borough Council and West Midlands police gave their backing for a 16-mile circuit, based on Knowle, to be covered eight times.

Ladejo combines roles

■ ATHLETICS: Du'aine Ladejo has been rewarded for his promising debut in France last month by being named in the Great Britain team for the European Cup combined events in Bressanone, Italy, in July.

Giles put in tight corner

■ HOCKEY: Calum Giles has expressed uncertainty about his future as an international player, despite scoring six goals for England in the World Cup tournament at Utrecht, Holland.

First-class crossing

■ SWIMMING: Susie Maroney, of Australia, became the first person to swim from Mexico to Cuba, completing the estimated 122-mile crossing in less than 39 hours.

Steelers strengthened

■ ICE HOCKEY: George Dodds, the owner of Sheffield Steelers, pledged his continued financial support to the club yesterday and guaranteed its immediate future by writing out a cheque for £100,000.

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Advertisement for a car with a large image of a smiling face and a car wheel.



TRIATHLON 46
Britain benefits from drain of Australian talent

SPORT

GOLF 49

European women embark upon watershed season



WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 1998

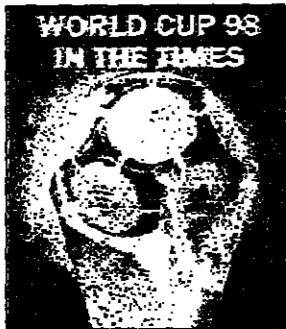
Injured Brazilian striker joins long list of notable World Cup absentees

Final curtain falls on Romario

By ROB HUGHES

ENGLAND, and Paul Gascoigne, are not alone. As the hours ticked away yesterday towards the deadline on which the World Cup squads had to be named, more icons fell. Romario, a soul-mate to Gascoigne if ever there was one, was left out by Brazil because of doubts about his fitness and Kazu Miura, by a distance the most charismatic Japanese player of his generation, was dropped because his form could not be trusted.

Shades of La Manga indeed. When Fifa, football's world governing body, arbitrarily set June 2 as the day to call time on players striving to prove themselves, it might as well have prepared a guillotine. No one will ever know whether Gascoigne, Romario or Miura could have used the extra week to persuade their managers that they could stay the distance.



They are performers synonymous with their countries, individuals to whom the people warmed and through whom many lived out fantasies. Yet how differently England, Brazil and Japan took the news. In England, led by Gascoigne's own outpourings of rage and recrimination, there is a great national divide.

Brazil have lost, in Romario, a personality of similar public magnetism. His goalscoring helped Brazil to win the World Cup four years ago, but after risking his reputation through drunkenness, infidelity and absenteeism, he returned to reclaim public affection.

The "aging" Romario, 32 but still artful in the penalty box, still able to show a young thing like Ronaldo some tricks



Crying game: Romario struggles to control his emotions at a press conference to announce his departure from Brazil's World Cup squad. Photograph: Paulo Nicoletta

of the trade, eventually won over Mario Zagallo, Brazil's 66-year-old trainer. If Zagallo never forgave him for partying all night after limping off during a match against Bolivia last summer, he softened to the player's commitment to recapture his shape and his form.

The Confederation Cup in Riyadh this year proved what music Ronaldo and Romario could make together. What harmony and what goals:

Ronaldo the power and the youth, Romario the guile and the experience. Irresistible... but the years of self-inflicted neglect prepared their backlash.

A calf injury, sustained on May 6, will not heal and when Lidio Toledo, the Brazil team doctor, met with Zagallo, Zico, the assistant coach, the team physiotherapist and Romario yesterday, it was agreed that the player was beaten.

Brazil were prepared. Unlike England with Gascoigne, they have a potential replacement in the squad — two in fact. Edmundo, at times as instinctive a predator as Romario and at other times so volatile that he has earned the

sobriquet "The Animal", will get first option. Bebeto, 34, and like Romario, his 1994 partner, back after losing motivation, is in reserve.

Craig Brown, whose Scotland team meets Brazil in the opening game on June 10, suggested yesterday that the removal of Romario might even the score after his loss of his captain, Gary McAllister. If Edmundo is in form, that could be wishful thinking.

Like Gascoigne, Romario wept as he left his colleagues, but not until he managed to say: "Twenty four hours ago, I was talking about the match against Scotland. Things didn't work out. This is a very difficult moment in my life.

This is not goodbye on my part, my relationship with the national team is not over."

Romario's tears acknowledged that his flickering genius and his wasted years left him prone to injury. "I went through an insecure phase," he said. "I couldn't for a while find the right path. Then I decided to overcome my personal problems and I promised myself I would return. I trained hard, I went to sleep early and then Zagallo gave me a chance. I couldn't blow it."

The message for Gascoigne holds good, even if the outcome for Romario is disappointing. The extra man called up is Emerson Ferreira,

24, a defensive midfielder from Bayer Leverkusen, possibly because Zagallo fears injury to Dunga, his captain, more than he needs another attacker. Brazil, the nation, has no divisions and no despair over Romario because he went gracefully; he is not irreplaceable, and the public was fully informed of his struggle.

Miura's omission was likewise expected, even though Takeshi Okada, the Japan coach, seemed to have a change of heart when recalling him a month ago. "He's our only player with global experience," he said. "He does everything for the team, not for himself." No longer. After

86 caps and 54 goals, Miura gave way to youth.

There was disappointment, too, yesterday for Yordan Lechkov, one of the leading lights in Bulgaria's run to the semi-finals four years ago. He was left out of Hristo Bonev's final 22 for France, while the Romania coach, Anghel Iordanescu, could find no room for the injured Daniel Prodan, normally the mainstay of his defence.

Quite why Fifa needs a definitive roll call eight days before kick-off nobody knows. But in any language, that last cut is a fearful business. □ The Times will print the 32 squads for France 98 tomorrow.

Dawson's absence increases England problems

By MARK SOUSTER

ENGLAND'S fortunes on the field have taken a turn for the worse with the news that Matt Dawson, the captain, will miss the opening international of the tour against Australia in Brisbane on Saturday because of a ligament injury.

Given the controversy concerning the selection of the tour party that preceded England's departure, there was a certain inevitability and no small hint of irony in yesterday's announcement.

Certainly the absence of the experienced Dawson, who played a leading role in the British Isles' defeat of South Africa last summer, is a severe setback and could not have occurred at a worse time, coming as it has only three days before the start of the daunting tour, one in which realistically the match against Australia represents England's best chance of an international victory.

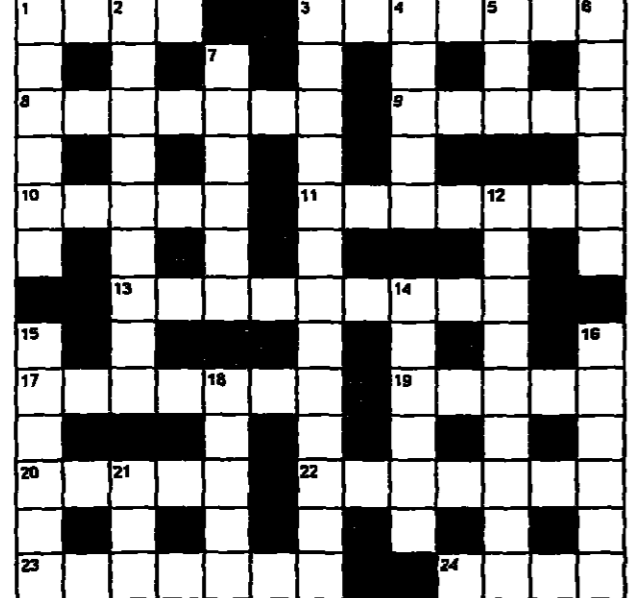
Although the damage to the ligament is not considered serious, Woodward has remained faithful to his dictat that only those players who are fully fit would be selected. "Matt will be 95 per cent fit, but I am only going to pick players who are 100 per cent," Woodward said. Dawson's withdrawal benefits two players: Scott Benton, 23, the Gloucester scrum half, who becomes the fifth new cap, and Tony Diprose, of Saracens, who assumes the captaincy.

Fran Cotton is to be investigated by a three-man Rugby Football Union (RFU) panel for allegedly bringing the game into disrepute and attempting to undermine the recent peace accord struck between the union and clubs which ended two years of hostility.

The decision to bring Cotton to account was taken by the RFU management board last Thursday, who studied a report from Roy Manock, the RFU's disciplinary officer, that highlighted, in particular, an article in the *Sunday Mirror* in which Cotton accused Peter Brook, the RFU president, of "betraying the game I love". The panel's findings are expected to be made available ahead of the next full council meeting on June 12.

Scots triumph, page 46

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1422

- ACROSS**
- 1 Depict; attract (4)
 - 3 No longer operational (7)
 - 8 Endurance (7)
 - 9 Russian spirit (5)
 - 10 Be painful; elegant (5)
 - 11 Inexplicable good event (7)
 - 13 Slip-skirt dress; hems can go (anag.) (9)
 - 17 Fries (from obligation) (7)
 - 19 Slaver (5)
 - 20 Spirit in bottle (5)
 - 22 To veil; reconcile (7)
 - 23 Sort of bar; like the towers of Ilum (Marlowe) (7)
 - 24 Enthusiasm (4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Obsolete (6)
 - 2 Rock fall (8)
 - 3 Job inherited at long last (4,5)
 - 4 Agitation; high temperature (5)
 - 5 Sign of approval; sleepiness (3)
 - 6 See the world (6)
 - 7 On which to walk quietly (6)
 - 12 Self-assurance (9)
 - 14 He enjoys causing pain (6)
 - 15 Influence; sounds like hang on (6)
 - 16 Customer (6)
 - 18 Portion, section (5)
 - 21 Pinch; shot of drink (3)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1421**
- ACROSS:** 1 Lipstick 7 Prior 8 Brimstone 9 Lea 10 Left 11 Dennis 13 Kelvin 14 Lessee 17 Potter 18 Snug 20 Axe 22 Detective 23 Kazve 24 Protegée
- DOWN:** 1 Libel 2 Painful 3 Task 4 Cholera 6 Hills 6 Treacle 7 Pennies 12 Ripside 13 Karaoke 15 Singing 16 Mentor 17 Petal 19 Globe 21 Scot

Magnificent Moya prevents Rios from returning to peak

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN PARIS

THE last remaining seed of substance here was yesterday buried under the clay of Roland Garros when Marcelo Rios, a hot favourite for the French Open, succumbed to a brilliantly executed offensive from Carlos Moya, of Spain. Moya's victory raises the prospect of three Spanish players contesting the semi-finals.

Rios's exit caps a tournament where world rankings have counted for little. The Chilean was the only top-ten player to survive the first week. His quarter-final downfall prevents him from regaining his place as world No 1 from Pete Sampras, and extends his failure to capture a grand-slam title.

The winner of five titles this year, Rios, seeded No 3, was the man most feared by his contemporaries. He came into the match unbeaten in 14

matches, yet his fall was almost inevitable from the way Moya, the winner in Monte Carlo last month and seeded No 12, opened the match. From the first points Moya, 21, attacked from the baseline, refusing to yield to Rios's renowned shot-making. Moya advanced quickly to 3-0, a series of tame errors from Rios matching the vulnerability that he showed against Albert Costa, another Spaniard, in the previous round.

If Rios was at odds with his surroundings, he rallied to take the second set as convincingly as Moya had the first. He established the upper hand but, just when he seemed poised to impose himself, the Spaniard, beaten by Rios on their only previous encounter, raised his game to new heights in the third set. The catalyst was Moya's

stout recovery from a treacherous early position: he trailed 1-0 and stood at 0-40 on his service. He grew visibly in stature, driving Rios to all corners of the court before unloading his heavy forehand with telescopic precision. Rios quickly accepted the loss of that set before bracing himself for one last effort, but Moya was to prove resolute in a fourth set of great drama.

The two traded breaks to 3-3 and, in a spellbinding passage of play, Moya barely contained his opponent, saving a break point to hold service at 4-3. The crux arrived when Moya broke Rios's service to lead 5-4 after Rios left an easy ball that he felt had bounced twice before Moya played it. "I quit playing because I was sure," Rios said later. "I think it made a big difference." Although the Chilean com-

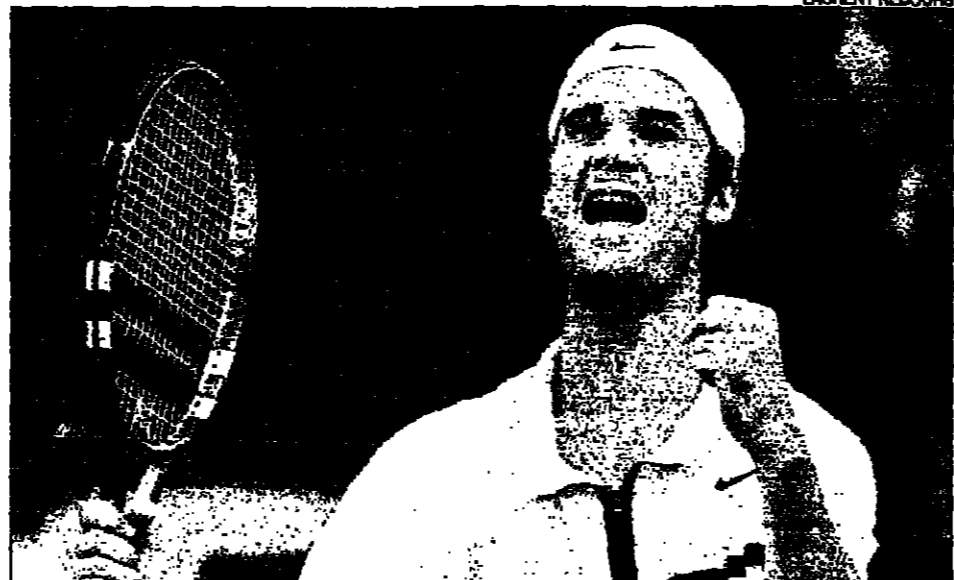
plained bitterly, he was guilty of failing to play to the umpire's call and brought about his own downfall.

Moya still required nerves of steel to close out the match. That final game featured some nailbiting points, not least when Rios repelled three match points with a mixture of brio and good fortune. The first he saved with a blistering forehand that clipped the line; the second with an outrageous net cord that dropped stone dead on Moya's side; the third with a sublime drop-volley that he played from inches above the clay.

A seventh ace from Moya brought a fourth match point from which Rios could conjure no escape. His recent exertions may have taken their toll; in preceding weeks, Rios has played in Rome and St Pölten, Austria, after an elbow injury had left him short of match practice.

"To beat Rios you have to play a complete match," Moya, the most complete player among a plethora of Spaniards in the world's top 50, said. He reached the final of the Australian Open on a hard-court surface last year. Now, his 6-1, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 triumph yesterday projects him into a semi-final against his compatriot, Felix Manutilla, who beat Thomas Muster 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Alex Corretja, seeded No 14, will become the third Spaniard to reach the semi-final if he beats Filip Dewulf today. The fourth quarter-final sees Cedric Pioline, of France, pitted against Hicham Arazi, of Morocco. Both are unseeded.



Moya celebrates after his surprise victory over Rios in the quarter-finals yesterday

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